

Chairman Dick Wood called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Raymond High School Media Center. Members present: Greg Bemis, Jack Barnes, Frank Bishop and Timothy Auclair. Also present: Town Manager Bates.

Chairman Wood led a salute to the flag and held a moment of silence for our departed citizens.

Public Forum

Public Forum was not recorded and therefore I could not transcribe it.

Public Hearing

Donation of Flags from the Wal-Mart Distribution Center

Town Manager Bates stated that Greg Sevinski from Wal-Mart Distribution Center has donated 50 dozen flags to the Town of Raymond in observance of Memorial Day.

Chairman Wood opened the public hearing to accept the 50 dozen flags and asked if there were any public comment, hearing none, he closed the public hearing.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to accept the 50 dozen flags from the Wal-Mart Distribution Center to the Town, seconded by Selectman Bishop. Motion passed unanimously.

Donation of \$150 to the Police Department from the Masonic Lodge

Chairman Wood opened the public hearing and invited public comment. Hearing no public comment, Chairman Wood closed the public hearing.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to accept the \$150 check from the Masonic Lodge to the Police Department, seconded by Selectman Bemis. Motion passed unanimously.

Donation of \$5.00 to the Raymond Police Department from James Guyette

Chairman Wood opened the public hearing and invited public comment. Hearing no public comment, Chairman Wood closed the public hearing.

Motion by Selectman Bemis to accept the \$5.00 from James Guyette to the Raymond Police Department, seconded by Selectman Bishop. Motion passed unanimously.

Report of VFW Land Swap Committee – Tim Louis

Tim Louis came forward and stated that until the town land is appraised they can't go any further. They need to know the value of the land in order to make an offer or even know

if they can afford the land. Town Manager Bates felt that the town does need to know the appraised value of the land for their own records. To have this land appraised would cost \$3,000. Town Manager Bates stated that Tim Louis came to him and asked about amending the town budget to reflect the \$3,000 cost, however, Town Manager Bates thought that it would be too confusing to amend the budget that close to deliberative session and felt that he could find it in the budget elsewhere if needed.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to allow the Town Manager to have the property appraised at the cost of \$3,000, taking the money wherever he can in the budget and report back to the Selectmen, seconded by Selectman Bemis for discussion. Bob Carlberg stated that this process is still in infancy and there is still a lot of work that needs to be done and can't be done until this appraisal takes place. Chairman Wood asked if there was any further discussion on this matter.

Mr. Tenney came forward and stated that he thought it was a waste of \$3,000 if the town does not intend to sell the parcel and just to use it for future well sites. Town Manager Bates stated that it is not the size of the parcel that constitutes the price.

Chairman Wood asked if there were any further comments or discussion, hearing none he called for a vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of 26 acres of land on Bald Hill and Hooke Road – Action to delay until April 17th.

Town Manager Bates stated that Mr. Cassier is still in Hawaii and has not signed off on all the paperwork and they have asked that this matter be delayed until the April 17th meeting.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to move this item to the April 17th agenda, seconded by Selectman Bemis. Motion passed unanimously.

Request to extend municipal water service to the Lamprey River Cooperative on Route 27 – Formal Action to follow-up previous decision by the Board

Town Manager Bates stated that this motion is needed to button up the CDBG grant for this project.

Motion by Selectman Barnes that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Department of Public Works to extend Town water service to the Lamprey River Cooperative and move to authorize the town water department to own, maintain and repair the mains, meters and curb stops, seconded by Selectman Bemis. Motion passed unanimously.

Police Department Officer Retention – Chief Salois

Chief Salois and Lieutenant Shawn Coope came forward and explained that he is having a hard time retaining police officers. Over the past several months they have been notified by three separate officers within the police department that they intend to move on. Two officers have applied to the Londonderry Police Department and one officer has applied to the State Police. Out of 18 full time officers, they will potentially be losing three at once and this is somewhat detrimental to the department. Chief Salois felt it was necessary after a discussion with the Town Manager that the Board of Selectmen be made aware of this potential problem.

Norm Weldy asked Chief Salois how many officers Raymond is under the Federal Guidelines before he loses the three officers? Chief Salois stated depending on which number you use, he believes last year they used 2.5. Chief Salois stated they have used numbers lower than that in Raymond. Anywhere from 19 to 25, it depends on which number you use. Norm Weldy stated in other words Raymond is behind the eight ball before we even started, according to our population and our area that we patrol. Chief Salois stated that Raymond is behind the Federal curve.

The Board thanked Chief Salois for coming forward and bringing this potential problem to their attention.

Personnel Policy Update – Action

Town Manager Bates stated that the Personnel Policy needs a lot of work. He stated he is bringing back to the Board the Personnel Policy with some changes. These changes are also the result of some audit requirements, one by CDBG and one by our auditors. The Board of Selectmen agreed to accept Section 8 and the 504 grievance policy.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to adopt Benefit 8-2 with the amendment of adding after with in Section 2, paragraph 2 “Cobra and any other applicable federal or state law.”, seconded by Selectman Bemis. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to adopt Benefit 8-3 with the amendment of adding after with in Section 3, paragraph 2 “Cobra and any other applicable federal or state law.”, seconded by Selectman Bemis. Motion passed unanimously.

Chapter 9 – Formal Grievance Procedure for Section 504, Title IX, ADA

Finance Director Collette stated that this is needed to be in compliance with the CDBG and our own auditors.

Motion by Selectman Auclair to accept Chapter 9, Formal Grievance Procedure for Section 504, Title IX, ADA, seconded by Selectman Bemis. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of the 504 Handicapped Accessibility Self Evaluation Plan – Action

Town Manager Bates stated that this is basically another compliance issue. In order to meet the CDBG's audit criteria and our own auditor's criteria, we need to adopt this. This also reaffirms Richard Mailhot, Code Enforcement Officer as the Compliance Coordinator.

Motion by Selectman Bemis to appoint Richard Mailhot as the Compliance Coordinator, seconded by Selectman Auclair. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance Director Collette stated that what we are required to do for the audit has been done. You have appointed a Compliance Coordinator and now we can formulate a plan and bring it back to the Board.

Motion by Selectman Bemis to adopt the 504 Handicapped Accessibility Self Evaluation Plan, seconded by Selectman Auclair. Motion passed 3-1 with Selectman Barnes opposed until he gets further information from Richard Mailhot, Compliance Coordinator. Motion passed.

Proposed purchasing policy – Grace Collette

Finance Director Collette stated that this is just putting in writing the policy that has been in place for quite some time. By putting it in writing, it keeps us in compliance with State laws, as well as the Community Development Block Grant concerns.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to accept the proposed purchasing policy, seconded by Selectman Bemis. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Investment Policy – Grace Collette

Finance Director Collette stated that this is needed to comply with RSA 41:29. This should be re-adopted every year.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to accept the proposed Investment Policy, seconded by Selectman Bemis. Motion passed unanimously.

Settlement Agreement in Quiet Title Action brought by the Town against the Heirs of Cora Falconer – Discussion and possible action

Town Manager stated that the Board was briefed by Town Counsel at the last meeting. When the Town took the land for taxes back in the 60's it was done incorrectly and when it was done again in the 80's the notices were sent to the Town of Raymond as they did not know where to send the notice. It is cheaper for the Town to settle with the heirs recently located and clear the title, then to litigate this matter.

Selectman Barnes asked if the Town pays this \$22,500 will the Town get that back when the land transfers? Town Manager stated no. Under the contract the Town has to provide land that has clear title to it.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to approve the Settlement Agreement as negotiated by Town Counsel and executed by the five known heirs of Cora Falconer, and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Settlement Agreement on behalf of the Town and to release an executed Town check made payable to Attorney Ruth Ansell as the attorney for said heirs for the settlement payment of \$22,500.00, delivering said check to Town Counsel for forwarding to Attorney Ansell, and to accept the five Quit Claim Deeds as tendered by said five known heirs as part of this Settlement Agreement with instructions to Town Counsel to record the same as part of the documentation of this settlement, seconded by Selectman Auclair. Motion passed unanimously.

Request to extend municipal water service to Map 23, Lot 4 Batchelder Road – Action

Selectman Bemis recused himself from this discussion and left the room.

Town Manager has a letter from James Gregoire requesting permission to grant a waterline extension. Dennis McCarthy gave his recommendation and has no problem with this request, however, did give the following conditions:

All costs will be borne by the applicant. Design plans are to be provided by the applicant in accordance with the American Water Works Association and Town regulations. The design needs to be approved by the Town of Raymond Public Works Department, Water Division. Water service allotment quantity will be 3,000 gallons per day based upon the current town average of 250 gallons per residence, per day. Extension allotment approval will remain in effect for one year from this date. The applicant shall execute a water system extension agreement with the Town.

A discussion followed regarding this request and who would be benefiting from this request.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to approve the water extension line incorporating Dennis McCarthy's above conditions, seconded by Selectman Auclair. Motion passed 4 in favor and 1 abstention.

Selectmen Bemis returned to the Board at this point.

The Board of Selectmen gave their report.

Chairman Wood went over correspondence received.

Chairman Wood was asking for volunteers to serve on the Exeter River Advisory Committee, anyone wishing to represent the Town of Raymond, please see the Town Manager. Selectman Barnes suggested that this also be forwarded to the Conservation Commission. Chairman Wood stated that it was sent directly to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board, as well as the Selectmen.

The Town Manager gave his report.

On Sunday, April 9th Caroline Severance will be turning 99.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Bemis. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy L. Cramer
Recording Secretary