

Chairman Wood opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Raymond High School. Members present: Greg Bemis, Frank Bishop and Tim Auclair. Member absent: Jack Barnes. Also in present: Town Manager Rick Bates.

Chairman Wood led the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for departed citizens.

Public Forum

Emily Quirk from Rockingham News came forward to announce that she would no longer be covering the Board of Selectmen's meetings. She has taken a new job with Seacoast New in York, Maine. She thanked the community for being so welcoming. The Selectmen congratulated her on her promotion and thanked her for her work.

Public Recognition of the Varsity Girls Soccer Team

The Girls Varsity Soccer Team came forward for the Board of Selectmen to present them with a proclamation for their season. Chairman Wood read the proclamation.

Public hearing – Acceptance of Brownfields grant and recognition of the volunteer efforts performed by Cheryl Killam and Mike Asselin in getting the grant

Chairman Wood opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m. to hear public comments regarding the two Brownfields Grants in the amounts of \$200,000.00, totaling \$400,000.00, from the United States Environmental Protection Agency New England for the clean up of the old Tannery Site.

He invited public comment

There was no public comment.

Chairman Wood closed the public hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Selectman Bishop made a motion to accept the two Brownfields grants totaling \$400,000.00, seconded by Selectman Bemis. No discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Wood asked Cheryl Killam and Mike Asselin to come forward so that the Selectmen could present them with proclamations for their hard work on getting the Town of Raymond the Brownfields Grant. Town Manager Rick Bates described what Cheryl Killam and Mike Asselin had done toward receiving this grant. Chairman Wood read the proclamation for each.

Corrections to the flood maps – resident question- Glen Carron

Glen Carron came forward and asked that before he went into the reason he was there that the Code Enforcement Officer Richard Mailhot give some background information on the Flood Maps and the flood insurance program the town belongs to.

Mr. Mailhot stated that the town had been in the program for over 25 years and the most recent map amendments were done in May of 2005. It's a privately funded program funded through insurance policy rates that are assessed by FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program. It establishes flood elevation in most of the critical areas in the community. Current areas in Raymond are Onway Lake, Governors Lake, Fordway Brooke, Dudley Brooke, Lamprey River, Exeter River and then the smaller wetlands in the town (ponds, streams, etc.) The mapping is done through aerial photography. From that they create and select flood plain through out the community so that the town can establish building elevations to keep those areas safe when there is flooding. The rates are set by the amount of risk a property has. When a person buys there home the mortgage company will look at the flood maps available through FEMA and determine if the home owner will need to carry flood insurance too.

There have been changes to the program. The most critical change is the definition of what is the lowest occupied level of a home. Previously this would be the first floor of the home. After the flooding of the Mississippi River and New Orleans, they found that after receiving their flood insurance policy, the home owner would finish their basements, adding family rooms, bed rooms, etc. This caused twice the amount of damage to the home that is flooded. Now they assess the home at the lowest level of the home. They assume that people may finish their basements. Mr. Mailhot also stated that another change has been if any piece of your property is in the flood plain then the mortgage company/ insurance company has the right to say that your property is in the flood zone. If a property owner believes that their home is in no danger of a flood they would have to hire a land surveyor to determine that and then petition FEMA to remove their property from the flood plain map. If approved, a letter will be kept on file at the town office.

Mr. Carron stated that he ran into the problem of having to get flood insurance when he went to get a second mortgage. He never had an issue with this until the new adoption of the Flood Plain. He gave Chairman Wood a letter from another resident that was having the same problem. Chairman Wood read the letter.

It was discussed that the town has to adopt any changes that FEMA makes through a warrant article. If these changes are not adopted the town is removed from the flood program and it becomes difficult for residents to get mortgages if their house is in the flood plain.

Selectman Bishop stated that this issue is not a local issue. It's a federal issue. He believes that they should be talking with the Congressmen and State Senators. Mr. Carron stated that he had tried that and didn't get anywhere with them. Mr. Carron asked the town to contact anyone that is affected by the new changes made to the flood plan. He asked the town to contact FEMA and ask them to find a way to solve this

problem. He also asked for the town to consider giving the effected residents some kind of property tax relief.

Selectman Auclair suggested to the public that if they think that they might be in the flood plain that they contact the Town Office and find out. Also he suggested that the Town Manager write a letter to the Governor, Congressmen, and Senators so that they are aware of these issues.

Changes to the cemetery rules and regulations

The Cemetery Advisory Board came forward to discuss changes they would like to be made to the cemetery rules and regulations.

Mr. Kappler stated that last week he had come before the board to discuss two things; one as a member of the Cemetery Advisory Board and the second as a citizen of Raymond.

On the first issue, the Cemetery Advisory Board wants to amend the Cemetery Rule and Regulations so that the Cemeteries would be closed during the winter. This would mean that no burials will occur and the town would not plow the roads at the cemetery.

The second issue is that he wants the town to go back to having the Cemetery Advisory Board be Cemetery Trustees. Under RSA 289.6 the Cemetery Trustees would consist of five members, three of which would be elected. He would like to see this as a warrant article in March 2007. The Cemetery Trustees would use the interest from the cemetery funds and need little if any money from the general fund. The Cemetery Trustees would come up with a budget that they would have to adhere to. He is hoping that doing this would correct some problems that are currently happening.

Chairman Wood stated that the board would go over each issue one at a time. The first issue would be closing for the winter. Chairman Wood read a draft copy of the ordinance that would be put into place to close the cemeteries during the winter months. Selectman Bishop suggested that the Board add that appeals can be made to the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Auclair wanted to clarify that there was an ordinance right now that allows winter burials.

David Baker, Cemetery Advisory Board Chairman, discussed with the Selectmen why the Cemetery Advisory board thought that closing the cemetery would be a good idea. The town would save money on plowing (fuel, labor, up keep). It would also prevent the area from being damaged by the plows, which sometimes occurs.

Mr. Bates stated that if the Board of Selectmen were looking at going forward with changing the ordinance then it would have to go through two public hearings.

The Selectmen decided to bring the new ordinance to their next meeting on Monday, December 4, 2006 with the change mention previously by Selectmen Bishop.

Chairman Wood moved the board to the next issue that Mr. Kappler had brought up previously. Chairman Wood stated that Kevin Woods was working hard on getting the cemetery funds straightened out. Chairman Wood doesn't believe that the Cemetery Advisory Board would be able to do any thing that hasn't already been done. The Trustees are working with the state to get things in order.

Mr. Kappler stated that he would like to work with the state on this and was asked by Grace Collette to get in contact with the state agency that handles this. He feels that it should be an elected official that should do that.

Selectman Auclair wanted to clarify that the Cemetery Trustees would be elected by the citizens of Raymond and not the selectmen. Mr. Kappler stated that three members would be elected and if the selectmen saw a need of it they could appoint two more members.

Mr. Baker wanted the public to know that having Cemetery Trustees is the idea of only Mr. Kappler. The rest of the Cemetery Advisory Board wants to keep things the way they are. They believe that the elected Trustees of the Trust funds can handle it. Mr. Kappler is acting as a private citizen not a member of the Cemetery Advisory Board.

Mr. Bates stated that he hadn't had a chance to talk to Town Council yet about the ramifications switching from an advisory board to Trustees would be. Would the trustees be responsible for hiring people to maintain the cemetery, etc?

Peter Buckingham from the Cemetery Advisory Board stated that tonight was the first time he has heard Mr. Kappler talk about making the Advisory Board into Trustees. He wanted to clarify that he's not sure if it's a good idea or not but the Board had not even voted on this issue.

Chairman Wood advised the Cemetery Advisory Board to get together and figure out what they would like to do and then come back to the Board of Selectmen with their recommendations.

Mr. Baker stated that he had poled the board and the Cemetery Sexton and all were against becoming trustees.

The Selectmen announce that they would be having public hearings on the new ordinance that was presented to them tonight on December 4th and December 18th.

Disposition of tax deeded properties

Mr. Bates stated that taking properties is not an easy task. Tonight he needs direction from the board as to how the Board wants to dispose of these properties.

Selectman Bishop asked that the board bring this back at another meeting so that all board members would have time to review the information provided by Town Council. Chairman Wood stated that he believed that included in the recently deeded property the Selectmen should also look at the two properties that the town currently rents. Selectman Bishop asked that the Code Enforcement Officer go to the properties where people are currently living and see if they are up to code so that the town may lease those properties or the property may not be up to code and the town should evict those people currently living there. Selectman Bishop also suggested that the Selectmen look at each individual property when determining what to do with them.

Chairman Wood stated that this would be brought back on December 4, 2006.

Withdrawals from capital reserve funds

Selectman Auclair asked that this be on an agenda. He would like the Selectmen to start approving the withdrawals from the Capital Reserve Funds at meetings rather signing the withdrawal requests in the sign folder at the Town Office. That way the Citizens will know what the Capital Reserve Funds are being spent on. He suggests that it be handled in the same way the Selectmen approve donations.

Mr. Bates believes that this can easily be done. None of the items that are being purchased are so time sensitive that they cannot wait for a selectmen's meeting.

Selectman Auclair made a motion that any withdrawals from the Capital Reserve Funds be approved at a Board of Selectmen's meeting, seconded by Selectman Bishop. No discussion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of CIP funding plan

Selectman Auclair added up the amounts that the CIP committee was asking for and said it was 15% more than what had been funded in the past. Chairman Wood stated that each year the town tries to increase the CIP by 15%.

John Paige, Chairman of the CIP Committee, stated that although the town is supposed to increase the CIP by 15% each year that has not been done yet. Every year the Selectmen apply the same base amount and add 15%. Applying the same amount causes the funding the same every year.

Selectman Auclair had the board look over the work he had done and discussed some of the changes he had made. Selectman Bemis asked what the change in the tax rate would be if they didn't fund the sidewalk CIP Fund. Selectman Auclair stated that it would decrease by \$0.01. Mr. Paige argued that the selectmen cannot cut that fund all together. What would happen if the town needed to improve current sidewalks? Where would the money come from?

Mr. Bates recommended that the Board go through the CIP line by line and make adjustments as they were needed. Selectman Auclair suggested starting out with the 15% increase and then changing amounts from that.

Selectman Auclair made a motion to fund the Highway Vehicle Replacement for \$70,000.00 and Highway Heavy Equipment for \$65,000.00, seconded by Selectman Bemis. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Selectmen discussed the Sidewalk Construction Fund. The name on the fund may have to be changed because it doesn't state that the funds can be used to repair or maintain the current sidewalks.

Selectman Auclair made a motion to fund the Sidewalk Construction for \$5,000.00 and Bridge Replacement for \$5,000.00, seconded by Selectman Bishop.

Selectman Bemis made a motion to amend the motion above to fund Sidewalk Construction for \$1,000.00 and Bridge Repair for \$5,000.00, seconded by Selectman Bishop. No discussion. Vote was tied. Amendment Failed.

Chairman Wood took a vote on the original motion. Vote was tied. Motion failed.

Selectman Bemis made a motion to fund the Sidewalk Construction for \$1,000.00 and Bridge Replacement for \$5,000.00, seconded by Selectman Auclair. No discussion. Motion passed three to one. Selectman Bishop voted against the motion.

Selectman Bishop made a motion to fund GGB Maintenance and Improvements for \$12,500.00, seconded by Selectman Auclair. No Discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Bemis made a motion to fund the Master Plan Update for \$25,000.00, seconded by Selectman Auclair. No Discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Bemis made a motion to fund the Police Department Equipment Repair and Replacement for \$6,500.00 and Police Department Vehicle Repair and Replacement for \$5,700.00, seconded by Selectman Bishop. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Bishop made a motion to fund the Dispatch Equipment Repair and Replacement for \$15,000.00, seconded by Selectman Auclair. Discussion:

Selectman Bemis asked why the amount that the Selectman Auclair had come up with higher than what the CIP Committee was asking for. Selectman Auclair and John Paige answered because it was funded for \$15,000.00 the previous year.

Selectman Bemis made a motion to amend the motion on the floor to fund the Dispatch Equipment Repair and Replacement to \$10,000.00, seconded by Selectman Auclair. No discussion. The Amendment passed unanimously.

New motion on the floor is to fund the Dispatch Equipment Repair and Replacement to \$10,000.00. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Bemis made a motion to fund Fire Department Vehicle Repair and Replacement for \$127,000.00 and Fire Department Equipment Repair and Replacement for \$13,000.00, seconded by Selectman Auclair. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Auclair motioned to fund the Parks & Recreation Department Equipment Repair and Replacement for \$7,000.00, Parks & Recreation Department Vehicle Repair and Replacement for \$7,000.00 and Parks & Recreation Department Facilities Repair and Replacement for \$7,000.00, seconded by Selectman Bemis. No discussion. Motion passed three to one. Selectman Bishop was against the motion.

Selectman Bishop motioned to fund the Town Office Revaluation for \$5,900.00 and Town Office Town Technology for \$25,000.00, seconded by Selectman Bemis. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Bemis motioned to fund Library Improvement Fund for \$5,000.00, seconded by Selectman Auclair. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Auclair motioned to fund New Town Facilities or Rehabilitation for \$13,000.00, seconded by Selectman Bishop. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Wood stated that the bottom line for the CIP is \$410,600.00.

Draft warrant articles for presentation to the Budget Committee

Town Manager Bates stated that the warrant articles right now were in rough draft. They hadn't been reviewed by Town Council yet. He also stated that Raymond Coalition for Youth had submitted a letter to be put as a social service on a warrant article.

Article A and B: There were no discussions made. Further information is needed to finalize these.

Article C: Selectman Auclair was unclear if the town was going to lease the State Salt Shed or is the town going to buy it. Selectman Auclair suggested that the selectmen take this out from going to the Budget Committee until a discussion is made as to what the town will do with it. Mr. Bates suggested to leave it there as a place holder but don't put in an amount to fund that.

Article D is the Scholarship that is the same every year.

Article E: Selectman Auclair suggested holding off on this one because the Selectmen haven't discussed the Water Department Capital Reserve yet. Leave it as a place holder, don't put in an amount.

Article F: Need to change the amounts to what was just voted on by the Selectmen tonight. Selectman Auclair stated that he will be meeting with the Trustee's about changing some of the names on the Capital Reserve funds. The name changes would be a separate warrant article.

Article G: The amount in the warrant article is not the same. Ms. Collette had new amounts that are significantly more. Some Social Service Agencies have increased the amounts that they have requested. Chairman Wood stated that in the past there was a policy that any social service agency that had asked for more money than the previous year would have to go to the Deliberative Session and Budget meetings to state their case as to why it went up. Those that stayed the same wouldn't. He suggested that maybe the Board go back to that policy. He stated that the social service agencies should probably be notified to go to the budget meeting and Deliberative Session if their requests have increased.

Mr. Bates asked the board to look at the request from Raymond Coalition for Youth. Selectman Auclair asked that they come to a Budget Committee meeting. The Budget Committee is going to have the same questions as the Board of Selectmen. It would just be easier for them to come for one night and everyone's questions can be answered.

Article H: Green Hills Study. Selectman Bemis wanted to make sure that Brown Road was part of that study. It is.

Article I: The amount that was in the Article for Mosquito spraying needed to be checked. It may have gone up. Richard Mailhot will have to find that out from the company.

Article J: Road reconstruction amount is the same as last year. Selectman Auclair stated that Dennis McCarthy, Public Works Director, needed to show the board which roads were up for reconstruction in 2007.

Article K, L & M: Ms. Collette stated that the exemption amounts have doubled but the income and asset requirement stay the same.

Board of Selectmen Report

None of the Board members had anything to report.

Town Managers Report

Mr. Bates attended the Mixed-Use Development Conference. He met with ten different developers. He believes that out of those ten there should be about five or six that will come to town to look at the development off Exit 4. They were very excited and very interested. The fact that the Town is very supportive made a big difference.

Selectman Bishop motioned to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Bemis. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Wood Adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

April Rives
Executive Secretary