

Place: Raymond High School Media Center
Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Harold Wood, Vice Chairman Greg Bemis, John Barnes, Frank Bishop and Tim Auclair. Also present: Town Manager Richard Bates.

MOTION: Tim Auclair made a motion to enter Non-Public Session under NH RSA 91-A:3,II(a)(b). Frank Bishop seconded. Vote on the motion: John Barnes-YES, Frank Bishop-YES, Tim Auclair-YES, Greg Bemis-YES, Harold Wood-YES. The Board entered non-public session at 8:30 p.m.

MOTION: Tim Auclair made a motion to come out of Non-Public Session under NH RSA 91-A:3,II(a)(b) and to seal the minutes. Frank Bishop seconded. Vote on the motion: John Barnes-YES, Frank Bishop-YES, Tim Auclair-YES, Greg Bemis-YES, Harold Wood-YES.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Forum

Lyman Hammond, Jr. asked how the CIP funds are expended.

Chairman Wood stated that the expenditures go through the Town Manager first and then they are approved by the Board of Selectmen in public session.

Lorraine Menard distributed a letter to the Board of Selectmen for their review at a later time.

Steve Naoum gave suggestions to the Selectmen that may help absorb some of the cuts made to the budget. He suggested shopping for insurance yearly to get the best price and to look at services that are currently provided in the community and if the Town could outsource those services it should be done.

Frank Bourque stated the next Board of Selectmen should be the ones to act on the budget. He also was concerned that there were people who wanted to be on the Wetland Mitigation Committee that were never contacted.

Chairman Wood stated the Board of Selectmen can recommend budget cuts, however, by law the Town Manager makes the decisions on where the budget cuts are made.

Greg Bemis stated that the vote is in two weeks and the budget has been presented for the voters to make a decision. It's time to stop discussing the budget.

MOTION: Greg Bemis made a motion that the Selectmen have no further discussion on the 2007 Budget. John Barnes seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

In response to a question regarding political signs on the common, the Selectmen agreed that political signs are not permitted on the Town Common.

Jonathan Wood suggested that next year when people sign up for elected office they should be given sign information.

MOTION: John Barnes made a motion that political signs are not permitted to be placed on the Town Common. Tim Auclair seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

New Business

Eagle Scout Project – Shawn Dawson reported that he constructed 80 bat houses as his Eagle Scout project. The bat houses were put up around Town and given away to residents that requested them. He stated that he chose this particular project because of the mosquito problem and the threat of West Nile Virus. A bat will eat up to 4,000 mosquitoes an hour and each bat house can be occupied by as many as 30 bats. Shawn stated that he hopes that the bat houses will significantly reduce the mosquito population in Raymond. An Eagle Scout project has to result in a benefit to the entire community, which he believes this project has done. Shawn stated that he is at the Selectmen's meeting to request a letter from the Town confirming that the bat house project is an asset to the whole community.

MOTION: John Barnes made a motion to direct the Town Manager to write a letter on behalf of the Board of Selectmen for Shawn Dawson confirming that the bat house project is an asset to the whole community and so we can have another Eagle Scout in Raymond. Tim Auclair seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Announcement

Chairman Wood recognized Executive Councilor Ray Wiczorek.

Public Hearing:

Chairman Wood opened the Public Hearing to hear comments on proposed changes to the Cemetery Regulations at 7:48 p.m. This is the first reading, the second reading will be held on March 5, 2007.

David Baker, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee stated that most of the rules and regulations were voted on at a Town Meeting in 1968. The only changes are in some of the wording. The Committee sent out letters to plot owners because the Board of Selectmen received letters complaining that the rules and regulations were not being followed. The Cemetery Committee wants these to be enforced.

Frank Bishop asked if there has been any response from people who were sent letters.

Mr. Baker responded that one lady said she takes care of the grave site and she requested a copy of the rules which will be sent to her. There was another lady that had a different opinion but was cordial about it.

Two audience members expressed their concern that the shrubs would have to be removed. It was very important to them that the shrubs remain where they are.

Frank Bishop stated that one of the purposes of this meeting is to receive public input. The rules are in place, however, we need to determine how we enforce them and if there needs to be any changes made to the regulations.

Randy Lacasse suggested that the Cemetery Committee consider putting a section in the rules that state a copy of the rules and regulations shall be given out when a lot is purchased.

Chairman Wood stated that the second Public Hearing is scheduled for March 5th and this will give the Cemetery Committee an opportunity to discuss the opinions and suggestions that were given tonight.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Wood closed the Public Hearing at 8:21 p.m.

Public Hearing

Chairman Wood opened the Public Hearing at 8:23 p.m. to hear comments on the following grants

- \$6,500.00 CDGB
- \$18,696.45 FEMA – Public Works
- \$16,890.78 FEMA – Public Works
- \$3,044.20 Hazardous Household Waste – Public Works
- \$8,000.00 Homeland Security II – Fire
- \$19,430.03 Homeland Security I – Fire
- \$1,198.90 Highway Safety East Corridor Enforcement Patrols – Police

There being no public comment or further discussion, Chairman Wood closed the Public Hearing at 8:28 p.m.

MOTION: John Barnes made a motion to accept the grants as listed. Tim Auclair seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

New Business:

Wetlands Mitigation Plan – Draft

Jonathan Wood and Cheryl Killam discussed with the Board the Wetlands Mitigation Plan Draft. This plan will be presented to the State.

There was a discussion on whether Exit 5 should be included in the document since Exit 5 has been designated as the SOD (sewer overlay district) and Exit 4 should be the priority.

The other side of the discussion is that Exit 5 should be included because it may be used in the future. The State could look at this as an additional opportunity.

Frank Bourque stated that on the 4th of February 2006 we all stood up for the land banking at Exit 4 and now we're throwing in Exit 5. This is the base plan that was approved by the voters to get Exit 4 going, and should not be changed unless the voters have the opportunity to approve it.

Town Manager Bates stated that Exit 4 was the main topic of the Warrant Article and he was afraid that Exit 5 would muddy the waters.

Robert Carlberg commented that there was supposed to be a committee to develop this document but no one that volunteered for that committee was contacted.

Elmer Pease described the process that will have to be followed to complete the land banking necessary for the development at Exit 4.

Cheryl Killam stated that for the record we have been discussing wetland mitigation for over 8 years and it has repeatedly been on the Conservation Commission agenda and it has been discussed openly at meetings.

Jonathan Wood suggested that at this point in time that the reference to Exit 5 be deleted.

There was discussion regarding the Cassier property being used for mitigation and the wetland values that are required by DES for mitigation. The Dearborn property was also discussed as a property for mitigation use, however, the access to the property may make it difficult to create a mitigation area.

Selectman Barnes suggested setting up a meeting with Congressional Representatives, Selectmen, Elmer Pease and the Conservation Commission to discuss the mitigation process.

Selectmen Reports

Selectman Barnes reported that two weeks ago he made a comment that we were owed \$240,000 from a developer and he would like to correct that figure to read \$140,000. He stated he understands the check is being drawn and will be in the Town Office soon. He stated he went to a lunch with Elmer Pease and other local and state officials to discuss the wastewater treatment facility in Raymond. He also attended an Eagle Scout ceremony for Shawn O'Brien which was very impressive.

Selectman Bishop stated he attended the same Eagle Scout event and agreed with Selectman Barnes that it was a very good ceremony. He attended the Conservation Commission meeting where the wetland mitigation was discussed.

Selectman Bemis stated he also attended the Eagle Scout event. He stated that Shawn's project was building picnic tables to place in public places. Shawn also received quite a bit of donations and support from the community.

Selectman Wood stated that last Friday three groups interviewed six candidates for Town Manager. On Saturday, the Board of Selectmen interviewed the top four of those candidates and have recommended their top four picks to our consultant, Don Jutton. Mr. Jutton is in negotiations with the number one choice and once the negotiations are final, an announcement will be made.

Town Manager Report

Town Manager Bates reported that he is working on the voter's guide. He toured the Middle School and it's really something the town should be proud of. He met with two candidates for Superintendent. He also met with the property owner of the construction site on Route 102 and Main Street. The economy has slowed this project down, but the intent is to still locate a professional office building on the site. He also has been setting up meetings with developers and retailers to keep the focus on Raymond. He announced that a live call in show on Channel 22 has been scheduled for March 6th. The moderator is Kevin Woods and the Town Manager, Selectmen Auclair and Bemis will be answering live call in questions.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Frank Bishop made a motion to approve the minutes of 12-11-07. Greg Bemis seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: Frank Bishop made a motion to approve the minutes of 01-22-07 as amended. Greg Bemis seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

MOTION: John Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes of 02-05-07 as amended. Tim Auclair seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Non-Public Session

MOTION: Tim Auclair made a motion to enter Non-Public Session under NH RSA 91-A:3,II(a)(b). Frank Bishop seconded. Vote on the motion: John Barnes-YES, Frank Bishop-YES, Tim Auclair-YES, Greg Bemis-YES, Harold Wood-YES. The Board entered non-public session at 9:30 p.m.

MOTION: Tim Auclair made a motion to come out of Non-Public Session under NH RSA 91-A:3,II(a)(b) and to seal the minutes. Frank Bishop seconded. Vote on the motion: John Barnes-YES, Frank Bishop-YES, Tim Auclair-YES, Greg Bemis-YES, Harold Wood-YES.

Adjournment

MOTION: Tim Auclair made a motion to adjourn. Frank Bishop seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette Patterson
Recording Secretary