

Place: Raymond High School Media Center
Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

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

Non-Public Session

MOTION: Tim Auclair made a motion to enter Non-Public Session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3, II (b) – The hiring of a public employee. Greg Bemis seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative by a poll of the Board.

MOTION: Greg Bemis made a motion to come out of Non-Public Session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3, II (b) – The hiring of a public employee and to seal the minutes indefinitely. Tim Auclair seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative by a poll of the Board.

Pledge of Allegiance

Overview of sewer rate structure and connection fees.

Don Jutton, MRI and Peter Atherton, Wright Pierce gave an overview of the elements used to determine sewer rate structure and connection fees.

Note: A copy of the power point presentation is on file with the original set of minutes on file in the Town Clerk's Office and available for public inspection during regular office hours.

FEMA Update – hazard mitigation flood relocation program and other programs

Richard Verville from the Office of Homeland Security met with the board to explain the Hazard Mitigation Flood Relocation Program and other grants that may be applicable to the Town of Raymond.

Mr. Verville stated the Town is eligible for two different grants. No grants are guaranteed and this is not a rapid process. One of the grants is a nationally competitive program which competes with other disaster areas across the country. It's a voluntary program for home buyouts. There is a lengthy application process.

Frank Bourque asked if every person has to participate in the buy out.

Mr. Verville replied no, it's all voluntary. Any homes that are bought out by the Town would be removed and deeded to the Town. The deed would stipulate that the property could never be built on again. Federal Funds make up 75% of the money with a 25% match from the local community. There is no State percentage available.

Frank Bishop stated that he will take this up with the Governor.

Mr. Verville stated that this requires a lot of work on the Town's part to get all the paperwork done.

Frank Bishop asked how much of the grant is available to use for administrative costs.

Mr. Verville replied that the Town can request that 5% of the grant money be used towards administrative costs.

Town Manager Bates asked how the property values get assigned.

Mr. Verville replied that the Federal Relocation Act would be utilized. The Town would purchase the homes at fair market value. The cost of the project and benefit have to be equal. The application period is open for 90 days and the application must be filed electronically. A good web site to look at is www.FEMA.gov.

Mr. Verville stated another program to look into is the Flood Mitigation Program. That can be used for buyouts as well. It's only available to homes that have flood insurance.

Frank Bishop stated that some businesses may not have been flooded, however, because of the telephone services being out, they lost income.

Mr. Verville recommended that the businesses contact the Small Business Administration.

The Board discussed the wash out of Old Bye Road. The Town's contract engineer, Erik Weinrieb of Altus Engineering is meeting with State officials to review the situation.

Mr. Verville stated that the project manager from FEMA should be able to assist the Town with the situation at Old Bye Road.

A resident asked if the Town was willing to help with the buyout and what happens in the mean time if the flood happens again?

Mr. Verville stated this grant will not be posted until sometime between August and October. Once it's posted, the Town of Raymond will have 90 days to file the application. Residents and the town have to work together to get everything in line for this project. The applications are ranked nationally.

Esther Mills of 9 Floral Avenue stated that each time we get flooded it gets worse and worse. FEMA told them if this happens again there will be no more help available.

Mr. Verville suggested that she look into obtaining flood insurance.

Mrs. Mills stated that she was told that they are not eligible for flood insurance.

The coordinator for Flood Insurance for the State was in the audience and stated that because Raymond has a Flood Mitigation Plan anyone in the Town is eligible for insurance.

Another resident stated the flood insurance doesn't cover a washer or dryer or freezer in the basement.

The Flood Insurance Coordinator stated that it would if the homeowner had the flood contents insurance. She recommended that people go to the web site www.floodsmart.gov.

Mrs. Rollins, 9 Harriman Road stated that this buyout will take awhile. Should we proceed with trying to put our homes back together?

Mr. Verville stated if the application was approved by FEMA we would not be notified until this time next year. There are no guarantees and you have to do what is right for you.

Mrs. Rollins asked what the Town is going to do to prevent future flooding.

Frank Bishop stated it's been suggested that specific roads be raised. What brought this meeting about was that we found out this is a new program and FEMA suggested that this is something we should look into and turn those areas into green space. We cannot predict what is going to happen in the future. On the 22nd the Small Business Administration, FEMA and Mr. Verville will be available to explain the programs and answer questions.

Town Manager Bates stated that Emergency Management Director Kevin Pratt and Community Development Director Creveling will also be present because they are the staff that will be putting the grant applications together.

Chairman Bishop thanked Mr. Verville for attending the meeting and providing much needed information.

Adjournment

MOTION: Frank Bourque made a motion to adjourn. Greg Bemis seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette Patterson
Recording Secretary