

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

**Members Present:** Chairman Frank Bishop, Vice Chairman Frank Bourque, Timothy Auclair, and Greg Bemis. Also Present: Town Manager Christopher Rose

Chairman Bishop led the Board in the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for departed citizens.

**Work Session:**

**Review of the 2007 Town Budget – Grace Collette**

Ms. Collette referred to the Revenue Report and Expenditure Report for the year of 2007 as of October 2007 that was submitted to the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Collette informed that a major highlight is that the department heads are continuing to be very careful to stay within the budget. The two major places to find overages are health insurance due to the reduced employees, and any new employees are required to pay 15%. Also, regarding the Ambulance Contract, there would be revenue of approximately \$9,000.

Ms. Collette informed that the areas of concern are:

- Planning Board Budget for postage is over expended by approximately \$2,000 at this time. This is due to the Planning Board voted for all abutters notices to be sent certified mail and return receipt requested, which is \$5.21 each. Selectman Bourque informed that the developers would be reimbursing the cost of abutters notices.
- Legal Fees are over by \$36,000 at this time. At this rate we will be over by about \$75,000.
- Accrued employee benefits are \$32,000 at this time.
- Foreclosures are over 50% increase at this time compared to last year.
- By state law, even though property values appear to be declining, the tax rate assessments remain fixed as of each April 1<sup>st</sup>. The market value percentage is set in February of each year for the prior year. The market value percentage for the year of 2006 was 97.9%.
- The tax rate for the year of 2007 is approximately 9% lower than the year of 2006. The town portion of the tax rate decreased by approximately \$.50. It is only 26% of the total. There were brief notations of what encompassed the school decrease.
- The average savings is \$354/home on a house assessed at \$200,000.
- This is the lowest town rate in 14 years

**(A copy of these Financial Highlights, September 2007, is attached to this set of minutes that is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and available for review during regular office hours.)**

**7:00 PM Business Session:**

**Public Forum 7:05 PM until approximately 7:25 PM if demand requires**

Buster Hammond came forward regarding the Boston Post Cane to be given to the elder recipient that he is aware. Chairman Bishop stated he is aware that there is another person who is older, but there is a problem with her accepting the cane, and Frank Bishop will be consulting her again.

Jonathan Wood came forward regarding the Wetlands Mitigation Committee and the Mitigation Plan. He received verification that two of the Selectmen would attend the meeting October 16, 2007. On behalf of the Conservation Commission, he asked when the Selectmen would grant the Conservation Commission access to town council to act on a purchase and sales agreement with property or properties that the Conservation Commission is considering to purchase. Chairman Bishop stated there has yet been an answer received from the Conservation Commission of literature that the Selectmen gave Cheryl Killam at the non-public session last week. Mr. Wood commented that this would keep from having a purchase and sales agreement initiated. Chairman Bishop stated that there is information that is needed before initiating the purchase and sales agreement. Mr. Wood stated the seller would need to be included in the agreement in order to go forward with the information that is needed before initiating the purchase and sales agreement. There is no agreement with the sellers at this time. Selectman Bourque stated in order to make a decision to go forward or not would be based on the total budget amount. The Board of Selectmen had required the Conservation Commission to complete a budget all the way through the land closing, not just a land sale price. Mr. Wood inquired and Chairman Bishop noted the Conservation Commission would have access to town officials to complete a budget.

The following people came forward and expressed their opinions and noted RSA's regarding the replacement of deceased Selectman Robert Carlberg: Joyce Wood, Steve Naoum, Sherry Brox, Peter Buckingham, Kathy Hoelzel, Gretchen Gott, Sarah Brox, and Edward French. Chairman Bishop thanked those that came forward.

Chairman Bishop stated that the process being carried out at this meeting was approved at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Appointment of New Selectman – Discussion and possible action**

Selectman Bourque thanked all that came forward to apply and noted their devotion to the town. He expressed his opinion of an issue at the last Selectmen's meeting regarding Selectman Bemis's comment that Selectman Carlberg would have wanted the balance of his term to be the person that tied in the election. Selectman Bourque commented that Selectman Carlberg would have wanted a person that shared his conservative views.

Selectman Bourque also stated the importance of being compliant with State Statues and Raymond Code of Ethics. Selectman Bourque requested Selectman Bemis to recuse himself as he has had business relationships with Dick Wood. **(A copy of this letter is attached to this set of minutes that is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and available for review during regular office hours.)**

Selectman Bemis noted that he has had business relationships with several of the applicants just as Selectman Bourque and others have had some, and he should not be required to recuse himself.

The Board of Selectmen was in receipt of the required letters of interest from applicants to be considered for the open Selectman's position. The following applicants came forward and stated their qualifications and reasons they were applying: Jack Barnes and Michael Quintal – After stating their disappointment with the process that had transpired, they withdrew their interest to be considered. Also, Nick Longo, Michael Quintal, Tina Thomas, Harold (Dick) R. Wood, Jr., James Tuttle, and Wayne Welch came forward. **(A copy of these letters are attached to this set of minutes that is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and available for review during regular office hours.)**

The Board of Selectmen interviewed the interested candidates as each came forward. The same or similar questions were asked to each one.

**Motion: Selectman Bourque made a motion to go into Non-Public Session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3II(c). Selectman Auclair inquired about the reason to go into Non-Public Session. Chairman Bishop responded due to discussing and debating the candidates. The Municipal Association and Town Council were consulted, and it was determined that this was appropriate. After a brief discussion, this Motion was not seconded.**

Cheryl Killam inquired why the Board of Selectmen wanted to go into Non-Public Session.

**Motion: Selectman Auclair made a motion to appoint Dick Wood as he felt Mr. Wood is the best candidate for the Selectman position. Selectman Bemis stated he would not recuse himself, and seconded the motion. Discussion: Selectman Auclair stated he felt Mr. Wood is most familiar with current events, and he was the most recent person to have been a Selectman, therefore the most qualified. Chairman Bishop polled the Board: Selectman Auclair – yes, Selectman Bemis – yes, Selectman Bourque – no, Chairman Bishop – no. The Motion failed.**

**Motion: Selectman Auclair made a motion to appoint James Tuttle. This Motion was not seconded.**

**Motion: Selectman Bourque made a motion to appoint Wayne Welch. Chairman Bishop seconded. Discussion: Selectman Auclair stated he did not have a problem with Mr. Welch, except for the perception with the public regarding Dick Wood that for some reason there is dead lock, two to two, with the Board of Selectmen.**

Selectman Auclair stated that he made a motion to appoint James Tuttle as there seemed not to be any conflict of interest. Selectman Bemis stated that Mr. Welch was a good candidate, although, he had not run for office in the election in March of 2007. Selectman Bemis stated that he felt the next candidate in line from the election in March of 2007 should be chosen who would be Dick Wood. Selectman Bourque stated that Mr. Welch is a fiscal conservative and is the mirror image of Robert Carlberg on all of the issues, and the people voted for the conservatives at the last election. He stated that not only one won, but two won, which is unprecedented. He stated Mr. Welch has served this town in the past and he could absolutely help to keep the bottom line down in the future. Chairman Bishop polled the Board: Selectman Auclair – no, Selectman Bemis – no, Selectman Bourque – yes, Chairman Bishop – yes. The Motion failed.

**Motion:** Selectman Auclair made a motion again to appoint James Tuttle as Selectman. Selectman Bemis seconded. **Discussion:** Selectman Auclair stated James Tuttle would be the right candidate to appoint as he is a neutral party and it seems he is the one that everyone is looking for at this time. He has budget experience and meets the qualifications. Selectman Bemis stated he seconded the motion as he perceives that with Mr. Tuttle there is no conflict of interest and there is no chance for this to go to court. Selectman Bourque referred to his earlier statement regarding the Raymond Code of Ethics and he stated he made his statement based upon something that was adopted by the voters. Selectman Bemis and Selectman Bourque agreed to discuss this matter at a later date. Chairman Bishop polled the Board: Selectman Auclair – yes, Selectman Bemis – yes, Selectman Bourque – yes, Chairman Bishop – yes. The Motion passed.

#### **Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Selectman Auclair made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Bemis seconded. The vote was in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon E. Walls, Recording Secretary