

Town of Raymond
401 Webbs Mills Road
Raymond, Maine 04071

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 3, 2006
*Amended October 17, 2006

Attendance: Mark Gendron, Chairman; Dana Desjardins; Mike Reynolds, Joe Bruno, and Lonnie Taylor.

Selectmen absent: None

Staff attendance: Don Willard, Town Manager; and Mike O'Donnell, contract assessor.

Others: Janet and Norman Poulin; Heidi McVane, Lake Region Suburban News; John Robinson, Representative to the Legislature; Roger Ginn, Chairman School Board; Charles Leavitt; and William Shively.

1)Call to order. Mark Gendron called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Town Office.

2)Minutes of previous meeting dated September 19, 2006.

MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to table until the next meeting. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

3)New business.

a)Discussion of mailing tax bills in late October – Mark Gendron, Chair of Selectmen

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gendron noted that last year the tax bills were 30 days beyond the October 1st date because the mil rate was set late. Mr. O'Donnell has asked for this again because of the exceptional number of abatements having to be studied this year after the revaluation. Mr. Willard suggested that they maintain the same due date of October 31st but hold the beginning date for interest until 30 days after the bills are sent out.

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to approve the town manager's suggestion. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

DISCUSSION: Mike O'Donnell asked for a special Selectmen's meeting to set the mil rate when he's ready. He said that they could sign the commitment outside of a regular meeting. The next Selectmen's meeting will be Tuesday, October 10, 2006 at 6:00 pm to set the mil rate.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

b)Tri-town/County Meeting – Selectmen follow-up discussion
DISCUSSION: Mr. Gendron reported about last week's meeting with Windham, Gray and the County Commissioners. He noted that Raymond had most of the Selectmen there and our Fire Chief. They discussed some of the things that Raymond wanted discussed, and the Commissioners asked to have another meeting a date to be set. Mr. Reynolds felt the Commissioners defended their position and really weren't listening. He didn't feel that they were willing to take the town's comments to heart and felt there was a great arrogance on their part. He wanted to press for another meeting and again try to express our concerns because he felt the County must be made to understand our problems. Mr. Desjardins said that there is a need for more than 3 commissioners and felt that 5 would be a good way to start. He added that Cumberland is a big county and large city representatives don't understand what is important to small towns. He encouraged the towns to work together with the county both with communications and other things which we're already paying for through our county tax. It would benefit both entities because we can't do everything alone. He felt we needed to attend their budget meetings and have some input. He agreed that there was little sympathy extended to the towns. Mr. Gendron felt that county was dictating what the towns would get and would have to pay for without our representation. He had concern that they didn't understand what the small communities needed and could afford. Mr. Bruno noticed a friction between the county manager and the county *sheriff. The weight of the jail on the budget included the bond payments which should have appeared in the budget on its own. He felt that all the county advisory committee members had a stake in that they are involved with nonprofits which are funded somewhat by the county. He suggested sending a selectmen member as a representative to their budget committee. Mr. Bruno noted that the only way you can get more councilors is to have a charter change which was defeated when it was brought to a vote not long ago. Mr. Gendron believed that whatever project the county wants is done without regard to how much and who was going to pay for it. Mr. Willard felt that money taken from the registry of deeds budget to pay for the overage in the communication center could have been used for tax relief. Mr. Desjardins felt that the county commissioners could work on their math and have a better budget. Mr. Willard had concern that they built the communications center without having all the towns involved prior to their decision. They didn't take the responsibility to let Raymond know that our offer to have the center in Raymond was not being considered when they had every intention of remodeling the Windham bunker. Mr. Gendron noted that only the towns which were on board with the program were the only ones to vote on it. Raymond had no input. Mr. Willard felt that the center would compel the towns to come to it because it is state of the art and has the potential to maintain the service for the county's towns. Mr. Gendron felt that the councilors have no regard for what the county tax will be for the towns. Mr. Bruno noted that Windham and Gray are beginning to agree with Raymond, and there should be another meeting. He suggested a letter to the other towns in the county to state our position. Mr. Willard noted that there wasn't much press coverage especially from the Portland newspapers. Mr. Desjardins also had a problem with the county owning and operating a civic center which should be a private enterprise. Mr. Gendron suggested contacting them for a meeting which they were supposed to set. He also felt other towns should be invited. Mr. Taylor asked that the agenda include the county budget.

Mr. Gendron wanted to pin point the lack of town representation and the vision of the small towns and what they need/want. Mr. Willard has sent the press the Selectmen's memo over the last meeting and felt they needed to move forward with another meeting. Mr. Reynolds said they have never answered his question about adhering to the LD1 limits which they don't have to account to. He anticipated their increase would be 4.8% which Raymond will have to pay which is included in the LD1 percentage for the town. Mr. Gendron said the commissioners didn't want to attend meetings with groups of towns. He felt that each year we're getting less for more tax because of the logistics and population. Mr. Bruno questioned the county manager's ability to explain their budget when all Mr. Creighton said was that if Raymond had studied it, the county would not have to explain their budget. Mr. Bruno didn't feel that was enough explanation. Mr. Gendron asked the town manager to send a letter to the commissioners requesting a meeting and then extend an invitation to other communities. Mr. Willard suggested having one more meeting with the commissioners to give them another chance to explain their numbers before that comprehensive meeting. Mr. Bruno concurred. Mr. Willard asked if he should invite Windham and Gray. Mr. Gendron wanted to have minutes of that meeting.

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to send a letter to the county commissioners asking for a meeting to explain their budget. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.
VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

DISCUSSION: Mr. Leavitt indicated that the county tax as a warrant article which was passed at town meeting and asked what would happen if the town decided not to pay it. Mr. Willard said that the county can put liens on Raymond's properties for their taxes, and this vote was a message of protest to the commissioners and that the taxes would be paid within their time frame. Mr. Leavitt appreciated what they were trying to do because this feeling has been expressed in years before. However, he cautioned using Raymond as a shining example of LD1 funding. He said that both the school and town voted for more funding than the LD1 number allowed. Mr. Leavitt felt that our public safety building was built with the hope in mind that the county would take advantage of our offer which didn't happen.

c)Consideration of abatements – Contract Assessor Michael O'Donnell, O'Donnell & Associates

DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Donnell said that they are trying to have all abatements finalized before the commitment. The bulk of the abatements are accomplished with a level of study which he felt was realistic. This does not mean that every lot is valued appropriately, but it does cover all abatements filed to date. He has sent Vision Appraisal all abatements for their review. They hadn't accomplished this before, because they were never sent the abatements prior to his beginning work last spring. Vision has now reviewed and returned those abatements. Mr. Willard felt that the valuation as a whole was well done and these abatements are properties which were outside the norm. Mr. O'Donnell said there were over 4,000 properties, and we had just fewer than 400 abatements. He didn't feel that the real problem was with the values but more with the previous ability of the assessing office to listen to the taxpayer and process the abatements. He felt most were now consistent correct values. Mr. Bruno asked about an assessment total.

Mr. O'Donnell didn't feel that abatement totals were appropriate because these were individual abatements which are fair and shouldn't be lumped together. Mr. Bruno had concern that the town hadn't set aside enough money to pay for them. Mr. O'Donnell said that the overlay is what is paid out on these abatements and it's imperative that enough is in the budget. The problem was that this year's overlay was miscalculated last year when it was included in the budget. He intended to come to the commitment meeting with a number which will cover the next year's abatements. Mr. Willard noted that these abatements would impact the mil rate because they weren't *planned for. Mr. Reynolds felt that this year we have more information and possibly fewer abatements which should make the overlay a better number. Mr. Willard acknowledged that this year's mil rate would be higher because of the abatements and the budget approved at town meeting including the extra warrant articles for those things beyond the LD1 number.

MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to approve the 59 abatements presented by Mike O'Donnell. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

Map 1, Lot 20	\$2,539.83	Map 50, Lot 47	\$ 14.88
Map 1, Lot 22	\$1,908.36	Map 53, Lot 6	\$ 395.25
Map 1, Lot 23	\$4,009.23	Map 54, Lot 29	\$ 672.39
Map 1, Lot 25	\$4,193.37	Map 54, Lot 46	\$1,948.35
Map 1, Lot 26	\$2,151.09	Map 58, Lot 6	\$ 929.07
Map 1, Lot 27	\$3,761.85	Map 59, Lot 17	\$4,594.20
Map 1, Lot 28	\$2,339.88	Map 61, Lot 5	\$ 766.32
Map 1, Lot 30	\$2,285.01	Map 61, Lot 40	\$3,159.21
Map 1, Lot 31	\$2,285.01	Map 62, Lot 7	\$1,007.19
Map 1, Lot 33	\$2,271.99	Map 63, Lot 2	\$ 3,155.49
Map 3, Lot 37	\$ 377.58	Map 63, Lot 6	\$2,200.38
Map 3, Lot 69	\$7,853.85	Map 66, Lot 5	\$1,617.27
Map 4, Lot 32A	\$1,798.62	Map 66, Lot 6	\$1,759.56
Map 4, Lot 105	\$ 271.56	Map 66, Lot 22	\$ 400.83
Map 12, Lot 2	\$ 239.94	Map 69, Lot 15	Denied
Map 12, Lot 72	\$ 316.20	Map 71, Lot 1A	\$1,847.91
Map 12, Lot 79	\$2,195.73	Map 71, Lot 1B	\$1,847.91
Map 31, Lot 36	\$ 164.61	Map 71, Lot 2	\$2,282.22
Map 34, Lot 13	Denied	Map 71, Lot 3	\$4,995.03
Map 34, Lot 15	Denied	Map 71, Lot 5	\$4,841.58
Map 34, Lot 18	Denied	Map 71, Lot 7	\$4,112.46
Map 34, Lot 19	Denied	Map 71, Lot 8	\$3,055.05
Map 35, Lot 9	Denied	Map 71, Lot 9	\$2,984.37
Map 35, Lot 10	\$1,173.66	Map 71, Lot 10	\$2,822.55
Map 37, Lot 2	\$ 658.44	Map 72, Lot 8	\$2,941.59
Map 37, Lot 17	\$ 432.45	Map 72, Lot 10	\$3,047.61
Map 40, Lot 16	\$1,716.78	Map 72, Lot 11	\$2,466.36
Map 40, Lot 19	\$ 866.76	Map 43, Lot 2A	\$2,661.66
Map 40, Lot 23	Denied	Map 76, Lot 31	\$ 289.23
Map 42, Lot 82	\$ 431.52		

NOTE: Mr. Gendron asked Mr. O'Donnell to notify Mr. Willard if he will be ready for next Tuesday's meeting.

d)One Raymond Committee Update – Mark Gendron & Dana Desjardins, Co-Chairs

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gendron explained that the One Raymond Building Committee discussed several possibilities i.e. using part of the Jordan Small Middle School which would be a short term answer to the lack of work space in the present town office. Several locations were discussed and they are now looking at the school locations. They are also looking at the public works storage areas. Additional or replacement playing fields were discussed. He announced that there would be a site walk on Sunday, October 8th at 8:00 am meeting at the public works garage for a site walk of that area for vehicle storage behind the current garage on Webbs Mills Road. Mr. Willard asked if Mr. Leavitt might know where the monuments are to that town plot. Mr. Gendron also felt that he might inform them of risk management since he has a lot of experience in that, and what we will encounter in our plans. Mr. Gendron said they would also be looking at the Egypt Road area which the town purchased last year. He felt that the National Guard might be of help with this endeavor. They might also be able to prep the groundwork for a town office as well as the groundwork for ball fields. Mr. Willard didn't know the boundaries of the plots, but said he would attend. Mr. Bruno asked about the Public Safety Building as a town office. Mr. Willard answered that the deed says it is only to be used for public safety. Mr. Gendron said they would approach the previous owner to see if this restriction might be lifted. Mr. Desjardins asked to have a copy of the deed.

Mr. Leavitt asked about the live cable broadcasting and added that there was still no cable TV from the schools. He also asked for a report about the privatizing of payroll and the combining of the finance departments in the school and town. He wanted to thank Mark, Dana, John, & Don for their work concerning the safety issue at the schools. Mr. Gendron said that they still have one more payroll company to talk with. He added that the finance departments are now combined as much as they can be at this point. He continued that communications were in the works, but he didn't know exactly how far at this point. Mr. Desjardins said that Kevin Woodbrey has the cameras mounted in the modular meeting room, but don't have a time certain for production to begin. Mr. Willard said that it's being tested at the modular first, and later we'll be able to have it at the town office if there is equipment enough for this building. Mr. Willard noted that Mr. Woodbrey said that he is working as fast as he can and would like some volunteer help if they have the expertise needed. Otherwise we would need to hire outside help in order to get it installed on the fast track. Mr. Gendron felt it was important to stay within budget on this project. It was felt that the people would like to know the progress which could be noted on the website. Mr. Taylor said that he discussed with Mr. Woodbrey about having the Selectmen meetings played around the clock on cable which is now available. Mr. Ginn didn't know when the schools would be included for production.

4)Old (unfinished) business.

a)Consideration of recycling totes – Phil Hammett, Recycling Committee
Chairman

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gendron noted the memo from Louise Lester relative to cost of totes.

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to purchase 100 totes only, unless we find another town to split the 200 totes, and sell them for cost. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

5)Town Manager Report and Communications.

(a)John Robinson relative to sex offender issue.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Robinson explained that an ordinance could declare a minimum distance from schools which is not covered by state statute. The County Sheriff or State Police will notice the town if an offender moves in close proximity to a school or childcare facility. Mr. Willard said he would be setting a date possibly the next regular meeting to discuss this. He added that the County Sheriff's would come and discuss it if asked. They are speaking in Casco and Naples. Mr. Robinson said that a number of concerned people in Raymond have asked that this be discussed. Mr. Gendron had received a call from another Raymond Selectmen about this subject. He said we could form a committee to see what can be done. Mr. Bruno felt that Waterboro has an ordinance in place and others are looking into it. Mr. Desjardins said that sex offenders are supposed to register with the Sheriff's Department and keep the police informed as to where they are. Mr. Robinson reported that the Legislative Judicial Committee met today to look into revamping the program with levels of sexual offenders. Mr. Robinson felt there would be something next winter. Mr. Bruno noted that they formed another study committee. Mr. Ginn said that studies have been already been done. He added that his profession is in forensic psychology which is risk assessment, and he felt there were more low risk offenders in the registry and with the total population listed, the high risk are lost in the numbers. He felt that treatment was a key in that those who attend treatment are less likely to revert than those that don't. He continued that the levels of concern were needed to keep in touch with the high-risk offenders. He felt that community input would be beneficial in the school's point of view.

b)MMA Convention

Mr. Willard reported that he would go to the Maine Municipal Convention tomorrow and Mrs. Lester on Thursday. Mr. Bruno asked if officials could attend, and Mr. Willard replied yes, that he could email in his admission. Mr. Bruno declined.

6)Fiscal Warrants – Payroll and Appropriation Warrants – October 3, 2006.

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$51,200.84 . Seconded by Dana Desjardins

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

MOTIONS: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the treasurer's warrant in the amount of \$44,633.31. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gendron noted that they had discussed paying the sheriff's part of the county tax bill which is 14% of the total budget. The jail is another 58% of the budget which includes the jail's bond. Mr. Desjardins felt they should show good will in paying the taxes in order to have productive dialogue with the County Commissioners. Why should they meet with us otherwise? Mr. Bruno noted that we said we would pay it and that the denial was symbolic and whether we pay it all now or not. He didn't think we should break it up. Mr. Willard said that Casco would be waiting until the deadline to pay their bill as well. Mr. Gendron didn't feel you should pay for something on time if you're not happy with the service.

TABLED

7)Adjournment.

MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

ADJOURNMENT: Mark Gendron adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk