



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES**
Tuesday, September 18, 2007
7:00 p.m.
JSMS Broadcast Studio

Attendance: Mike Reynolds, Joe Bruno, Lonnie Taylor, Dana Desjardins

Selectmen Absent: Mark Gendron

Staff Attendance: Town Manager Don Willard, Contract Assessor Mike O'Donnell

Others: Public Works Director Nathan White, Code Enforcement Officer Jack Cooper, Jean Carter, Chris Ball

1) Call to order.

At 7:03 p.m. Mike Reynolds called the Selectmen's Meeting for September 18, 2007 to order.

2) Minutes of previous meetings:

- dated August 7, 2007
- dated September 4, 2007

MOTION: Joe Bruno made a motion to accept the minutes of August 7, 2007 as written.

SECONDED: Dana Desjardins

VOTE: Unanimous, 4-0

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor made a motion to accept the minutes of September 4, 2007 as written.

SECONDED: Mike Reynolds

VOTE: Unanimous, 4-0

3) New business.

a) Commit 2007 property taxes, set tax rate – Contract Assessor Michael O'Donnell, O'Donnell & Associates

The stated mission of the Selectboard was to lower the mill rate or keep it flat. Mr. O'Donnell indicates that the overlay must be \$50,000 to \$100,000 to buffer against unexpected expenses. A mil rate of \$10.00 will give the town a \$52,000 overlay. Mr. O'Donnell does not recommend the town go below this mil rate. For every penny that is added, we add \$9,700 in overlay. (\$10.10 would give approximately \$150,000; \$10.15 would be \$199,000 overlay; \$10.20 would be \$247,000 overlay)

Discussion ensued among the Selectmen and Mike Reynolds about the advantages and/or disadvantages of setting the mil rate either lower or keeping it at the same rate as last year.

The Selectmen may take items out of order at their discretion.

MOTION: Mike Reynolds made a motion that the Selectmen hold the mil rate flat at \$10.20, which was discussed as early as last November and be proud that they were able to do it.

SECONDED: Joe Bruno

DISCUSSION: There was detailed discussion on how well this would work. The feeling of some of the budget committee is that it would be desirable to see the budget stay flat again next year, which would be harder to do if the mil rate is dropped too much this year. Mr. Willard said we can live with whatever is decided and make it work. (7:33pm)

VOTE: Unanimous, 4-0

b) Discussion on condition of the Egypt Road and the transfer of responsibility to the Maine Department of Transportation – Public Works Director Nathan White

Public Works Director Nathan White gave an overview of this item.

On January 18, 2005, the town of Gray petitioned the MDOT to reclassify Egypt road and part of North Raymond Road. I supported the reclassification. In September of 2005, MDOT notified the Town of Gray and Raymond that Egypt Road and North Raymond Road will qualify for up-grade to a state aid/ minor collector. The Town of Gray would need to make some upgrades to a culvert and to the guard railing. The Town of Raymond had no improvements needed. The Town of Gray Council Members approved the culvert replacement in March of 2006. The work was completed in November of 2006. The remainder of the work would be approved at the May 2007 town meeting, and the guard railing will be completed in October of 2007. On August 14 2007, both towns received a letter from MDOT requesting the Town of Raymond pave the 2.35 miles of road at a cost of \$185,000 with pavement and shoulders.

Town Manager Don Willard believes that the state should honor their commitment to take over this road and he indicated the first strategy should be to request that the MDOT not require the town to repave this road. Money has now been promised to Raymond Cape Road. The Town of Gray would like to pass the road off to the state in October when their work is finished. The Selectmen indicated that they would like Don Willard to attempt to work with the state to have them take the road over at the same time. (7:47 p.m.)

c) Consideration of resignation of Nelson Henry from Planning Board

MOTION: Joe Bruno made a motion to accept the resignation of Nelson Henry from the Planning Board.

SECONDED: Dana Desjardins

VOTE: Unanimous, 4-0

d) Voting credentials for the MMA Annual Business Meeting – Delegate Town Manager Don Willard and Alternate Delegate Town Clerk Louise Lester

MOTION: Joe Bruno made a motion for Don Willard to be the Delegate, and for Louise Lester to be the alternate for the MMA Annual Business Meeting

SECONDED: Lonnie Taylor

VOTE: Unanimous, 4-0

The Selectmen may take items out of order at their discretion.

e) School consolidation information update – Selectman Joe Bruno

Joe Bruno has gone to every meeting. The next meeting is September 24th in Windham. Three letters of intent have been accepted by the Commissioner. One is to join Raymond and Windham, one is Raymond with Windham and Westbrook, and the last one is examine a school district with Poland. Sub-committees are starting to form; Joe is on the Property Assets Sub-Committee. Mr. Bruno believes the money savings will not be as good as was thought up front. He does not believe that Raymond will see any reduction in costs. Meetings are open to the public and Raymond is taping the meetings for broadcast on the cable channel. (7:54 p.m.)

f) Maine Municipal Association (MMA) Legislative Policy Committee discussion – Vice Chair Mike Reynolds

Mike Reynolds detailed out the reasons that this item is on the agenda tonight. They are good with insurance, legal opinions, good training for municipal employees. However the large cities run MMA, small towns like Raymond get the short end of the stick. It is suggested the Selectmen draft a letter to MMA to note the concerns of Raymond on this issue.

MOTION: Mike Reynolds made a motion that Raymond draft a letter to MMA, coming from the Selectboard, that states that Raymond would like to see a super majority on decisions made by MMA.

SECONDED: Lonnie Taylor

VOTE: Unanimous, 5-0 (Mark Gendron is voting for this by proxy through Mike Reynolds)

g) Motion was made to go into Executive Session 1 MRSA 405(6)(E) for the purpose of discussing an ongoing legal matter that will involve the town's legal council. (8:04 p.m.)

MOTION: Joe Bruno made a motion to come out of executive session

SECONDED: Lonnie Taylor

VOTE: Unanimous, 4-0

MOTION: Joe Bruno made a motion that the Town of Raymond and the Selectboard and the Town Manager reach an agreement with Chris Ball with a couple of options. The first is for \$20,000 in cash to allow the town to pave Ball Drive. The second option is to have Ball Drive paved to town specifications with Nathan White supervising, so that it can become a town road, plus a penalty of interest and legal fees of \$6,000.

SECONDED: Lonnie Taylor

AMENDED: To include reaching a consent agreement with Chris Ball to make sure everything is in place and that Chris Ball has the opportunity to review any consent agreement with his attorney. Also included is the ability of Town Manager Don Willard to negotiate on behalf of the Selectboard until this matter is resolved. The deadline for all of this is October 15, 2007 so that it may be completed before paving ends for the year.

SECONDED: Lonnie Taylor (on both motions)

VOTE: unanimous, 4-0

The Board of Selectmen resumed the regular meeting at 8:46 p.m.

4) Old (unfinished) business.

The Selectmen may take items out of order at their discretion.

a) none

5) Town Manager Report and Communications.

a) Update on windows at town office

The job of replacing some of the windows at the Town Office has been put out to bid this week. This is a two week bid process. Project should be done by end of October or first of November.

6) Fiscal Warrants – Payroll and Appropriation Warrants – September 18, 2007.

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor made a motion to approve the Payroll Warrant, dated 9/18/07, in the amount of \$44, 183.56

SECONDED: Dana Desjardins

VOTE: Unanimous, 4-0

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Warrant, dated 9/18/07, in the amount of \$86,974.08

SECONDED: Dana Desjardins

VOTE: Unanimous, 4-0

7) Adjournment.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51pm.

SECONDED: Joe Bruno

VOTE: Unanimous, 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary
Laurie Cook

The Selectmen may take items out of order at their discretion.