

TOWN OF RAYMOND
MINUTES
Tuesday, December 4, 2007

ATTENDANCE: Mark Gendron, Chairman; Joe Bruno; Lonnie Taylor, and Mike Reynolds.

SELECTMEN ABSENT: Dana Desjardins

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Don Willard, Town Manager; Nancy Yates, Finance Director; Denis Morse, Fire Chief; Bruce Tupper, Deputy Fire Chief; and Kathy Gosselin, Deputy Fire Chief of EMS

OTHERS: David Willauer, GPCOG Planning Director

1. Call to order. Mark Gendron called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Broadcast Studio.

2. Minutes of previous meeting dates November 20, 2007

MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Joe Bruno

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

3. New business.

a. Discussion of insurance review/summary report – Finance Director Nancy Yates.

Mrs. Yates reported that Scott Simmonds, independent insurance agent, reviewed our insurance and found two places where we could reduce our expense: 1) public officials liability could see a \$1,500 savings; 2) Increase our deductible from \$2,500 to \$5,000. He also found that the Route 302 ornamental streetlights are not insured (\$700 cost per year), but Mrs. Yates said that Raymond has put money away in the TIF for replacement. He also suggested a \$1million liability increase for i.e.. coverage for auto accidents out of state. Mrs. Yates recommended increasing the deductible from \$2,500 to \$5,000, not cover the streetlights, and not get the additional \$1mil in liability. Mr. Simmonds also suggested not going to bid this year but wait another year when bids may be more competitive. Mrs. Yates said Raymond has never had a public officials claim to her knowledge. She added that any liability in State covers us by the Maine Tort Claims Act. Mr. Willard added that trips out of state are very rare. Mr. Bruno asked if she liked Mr. Simmonds? Mrs. Yates replied yes, and he thought of things she wouldn't have. Mr. Bruno felt we should go to bid again this year. Mr. Reynolds asked if he had any comments about how we went out to bid. Mrs. Yates replied that Mr. Simmonds didn't have a problem with it and felt that changes weren't

necessary. Mr. Willard said that he felt we were within the current market. Mr. Gendron also felt we should go to bid.

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to accept Scott Simmonds recommendations with the exception of going to bid in 2008. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.
VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

b. Proposed Lake Region Transit service – GPCOG Planning Director David Willauer.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willauer explained that there had been a 2001 Windham to Portland bus service study. He said that they now wanted to implement bus service from Bridgton to Portland via Gray and New Gloucester with 4 or 5 trips a day, 5 days a week. He was seeking town monetary participation for each serviced town. The service would be managed by METRO with the bus contracted from a private vendor. Raymond's contribution of \$3,848 annually would be for a 2-year commitment. This is a two-year pilot program with extension if the sponsors and users like the service. There was discussion of route. Their survey results in 2001 showed 200 riders a day. Mr. Willauer said the fare would be recommended by the Selectmen which they foresee being between \$3 to \$5. There would be a transit committee of member towns to help make policy. There are \$30,000 grant funds available to help with fare passes i.e. senior citizens, and handicapped citizens. Mr. Bruno asked why \$50,000 from the participating towns. Mr. Willauer replied it was determined by federal funding of \$150,000 available for matching funds. He added that they used population for the use of the service and applicable town payment, but there are other ways to determine this. Mr. Bruno suggested using mileage as well. There are no written commitments from any town at this point. The earliest it might begin is September 2008. Mr. Bruno asked when it would begin if not all the towns participate. Mr. Willauer felt that if half or more contribute, they could do a scaled down service. He noted that all buses would have to be ADA approved vehicles. He added that they have the ability to provide off-hour transportation for commuters who need to off-schedule travel i.e. for emergency travel which would be provided by car rental or van service. The revenue from fares represents only 25% of the operational cost. Mr. Willard noted that if Raymond voted to go into it with \$3,848 annually, and the other towns didn't join the service, would there be an added cost to cover the amount not received from those non-participating towns. Mr. Willauer said that it would be a two-year program and the amount of service would reflect the amount of financial participation. Mr. Gendron thought it appeared to be a good value. Mr. Willauer said that the Lakes Region Coalition Committee meets monthly, and the Selectmen were welcomed to attend. Mr. Reynolds felt that this should be a consideration in the budget process. Mr. Bruno said it was a good idea but was skeptical that people would use it.

c. Department Head Quarterly Reports – Fire Chief Denis Morse

DISCUSSION: Chief Morse opened by asking that his Department talk about rescue this evening and have separate discussions about fire and CIP. Chief Morse offered a brief history of the department. He discussed mutual aid (other towns are called in to help); automatic aid (towns come in automatically); and full service (the other town doesn't participate in any way). He had concern that Raymond was providing full service to Gray's area off Brown Road, and Gore Rd without any compensation or service from Gray. Chief Morse explained the personnel we have in Raymond number about 20 people most of whom are part-time and only 3 of those have been with the department for more than 3 years. He felt that we need to have a flat fee charge plus the call fee for mutual aid calls. Mr. Gendron wanted to address this issue now. Mr. Willard suggested having a meeting with the mutual aid towns because the governing bodies have changed somewhat since our last meetings. Mr. Gendron felt that they know they have had a free ride, and we should set our cost to them. Mrs. Gosselin said that State law says that the closest responder must take the call, and we're closer to those Gray roads than the Gray Fire Department is. 8:13 pm

Mrs. Gosselin presented a PowerPoint program on EMS. Her report stated that there has been an increase of 147 rescue calls in 2 years. This year showed 800 calls combined for fire and rescue. She explained that 4 am to 8 am is the most critical time for personnel coverage. Sixty percent of their calls require advanced life support skills. Raymond is EMT licensed, but the trucks are supplied for paramedic work.

They felt the resolution would be to send a letter from Raymond's Selectmen requesting a meeting with the Gray Town Council. The similar situation with Frye Island was also discussed. There has to be a way found to have compensation to support our Fire/Rescue Department. Chief Morse said he's had the idea of regionalization with surrounding towns in order to have enough funding to keep the departments viable, and he would like to pursue it. He summarized that the end result is that cost increase, lack of personnel, state mandates, and lack of collectable revenue will cause the budget to increase.

d. School consolidation information update – Selectman Joe Bruno

Mr. Bruno announced that last week's meeting was rescheduled for December 17 where they will discuss the items each town presents which they feel will hinder consolidation.

4. Old (unfinished) business.
 - a. None
5. Town Manager Report and Communications.

a. Dispatch

Doreen Leighton resigned after 30+ years to take a job with another dispatch.

b. January Selectmen's meetings

Selectmen meeting dates are set to the second and fourth Tuesday in January because the first Tuesday is the first.

c. Egypt Road

Egypt Road has been designated as a State aid collector road which the state will maintain and towns will plow. The state will take it over in June 2008. The state said that there would be major maintenance in 3 to 5 years.

6. Fiscal Warrants – Payroll and Appropriation Warrants – December 4, 2007.

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$51,753.16. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrant in the amount of \$42,765.97. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

7. Adjournment.

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

ADJOURNMENT: Mark Gendron adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk