

Town of Raymond
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2000

ATTENDANCE: Tim Pomerleau, Chairman; Betty McDermott; Ada Brown; Mark Acker; Michael McClellan; John Rand, Northern Pines Study Committee; Kevin Woodbrey, Cable Committee; Pat Smith, Chairman Raymond Recreation; Elizabeth Algeo, Chairman Conservation Commission; Rolf Olsen, Chairman Budget/Finance Committee; Will Haskell, Chairman Planning Board; Owens McCullough, Sebago Technics; Jack Cooper, Code Enforcement Officer; Nathan White, Road Commissioner; and Elizabeth Cummings, Town Manager.

1. Call to order. Tim Pomerleau opened the meeting at 7:00 pm at the Jordan Small School gymnasium asking the Public Hearing on Northern Pines be taken out of order.

4. Public hearing to gather public input and opinion with regard to Town of Raymond's position on accepting a gift of land and facilities at property known as Northern Pines.

PUBLIC HEARING: Tim Pomerleau opened the public hearing at 7:02 pm.

DISCUSSION: John Rand introduced the project study and said that this study was not intended to go into detail but look at the project in an overview. He thought it was a good project at first look, however the road work was a major concern. He reported that Bob Faunce, Town Planner, indicated that the road and parking would have to be improved. Mr. Rand explained that the costs for the project would be in building maintenance and improvements i.e. handicapped access; road, driveway, and parking improvements; hiring a staff person for scheduling, planning, and maintenance. He said there were three options: 1) decline the offer 2) accept the offer and continue studying the use 3) accept the offer and hire staff and proceed with program development 4) accept the offer and lease or sell the property. If the property is leased the Town would be responsible for the road but if sold it would not. Mr. Rand recommended that this offer go to a Special Town Meeting.

Dick Morris, Kings Grant, asked what the Town would have to do for the present owner if the Town accepted the property.

Pat Smith, Raymond Recreation, indicated the programs and proposed programs for Raymond Rec. Presently there are about 500 children involved with Raymond Rec and that the organization can operation with such a small budget because their insurance is under the Town's and all of their instructors are volunteers. She said their only needs right now are more field space and use of the gymnasium after school hours. She felt that these needs will probably be met with a field being offered by Camp Agawam and more gym room with the new school. She personally felt that the expense of this new acquisition would take potential funding away from their and other programs. Since Raymond Rec is now paying for janitorial service when the schools are used after hours, they would welcome the Town supporting that expense. She felt that tax money would be best used supporting the facilities it now owns. She didn't feel that Northern Pines could be used to maximum but thought that if another charitable organization owned it, they Town might be able to take advantage of some time and space in it.

Frank McDermott (McDermott Road) felt that the Town should look to the future for all ages of people. He noted that the senior citizens had no place to meet and that organizations could use the meeting room and kitchen, plus the 20 or so acres of woodlands could be used for recreational purposes. He encouraged Raymond to take advantage of this gift.

Neil Strange (Haskell Avenue) said that they had to provide for their private road and wasn't in favor of the Town rebuilding this road and maintaining this road for the people who lived on it.

Elizabeth Algeo, Chairman Conservation Commission, thought this was a wonderful gift and that the question should go to a Special Town Meeting.

Charles Leavitt, Raymond Hill Road, applauded the study group for putting together such a good report and recommended a Special Town Meeting.

George Bartlett, Sloans Cove Rd, had concern about the Town taking this on and running a recreation center not feeling that it should be a responsibility of the Town at this time. He thought leasing the property might be feasible. He indicated that the taxes were going up now with what the Town is doing with the new schools and that the added financial drain on the improvements and maintenance of the facility would be too much to deal with. He also noted that there would be some tax money lost from the valuation of that property.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED: Tim Pomerleau closed the public hearing at 7:56 pm.

2. Consideration of previous meeting minutes.

a. October 3, 2000

b. October 11, 2000

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to approve the minutes of October 3 and October 11 as written. Seconded by Michael McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

4. Continued: Mr. Pomerleau felt that the Selectmen would like to discuss the matter of a special town meeting further after they have heard from the fire chief about his inspection of the facility

MOTION: Michael McClellan motioned to table this until Wednesday, October 25, 2000 at 7:00 pm at the Town Office. Seconded by Mark Acker.

VOTE: Unanimous.

TABLED

3. **Tabled** / Public hearing and consideration to adopt a Cable Television Ordinance and enter into a Franchise Agreement with Time Warner Cable Company.

RECESS: Tim Pomerleau recessed the meeting for the exodus of people at 8:02 pm.

RE-OPEN MEETING: Tim Pomerleau re-opened the meeting at 8:08 pm.

5. Time Warner Cable Franchise Agreement - Fee setting.

MOTION: Ada Brown motioned to set the fee at 5%. There was no second.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Woodbrey explained that the fee was presently 2.5% and he felt that since the extra expense would be on the consumer, raising the fee would possibly keep some people from using the service and therefore not have access to the Raymond web site.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: Mrs. Brown withdrew her motion.

MOTION: Michael McClellan motioned to set the fee at 2.5%. Seconded by Betty McDermott.

VOTE: Unanimous.

6. Communications and other business.

a. Fire Chief salary.

DISCUSSION: This request by the Fire Chief for increasing his pay from \$10/hr to \$15/hr based on 20 hour per week which would be effective immediately.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to approve the increase to \$15/hr for a 20 hour per week fee. Seconded by Ada Brown.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Acker said he appreciated the work done by the Fire Chief but had a problem with funds being available in the budget because of two positions which weren't being filled and the money being used this way. Mrs. Brown felt that the funds were there because of the work that he is doing and he should be compensated for it. Rolf Olsen, Chairman of the Budget/Finance Committee, had a problem with allowing this raise this year. He felt it should be written into the next budget. He felt that the Fire Chief accepted the job this year well knowing the salary he would be allowed. Michael McClellan concurred. He didn't like purchasing something because there is left over money in the budget. He also didn't like having to make snap decisions in this way. Mr. Olsen felt that the Fire Chief could be compensated this year using the Merit Pay, which is available in this budget.

VOTE: 4 in favor (McDermott, Brown, Pomerleau, Acker) 1 opposed (McClellan)

MOTION: Michael McClellan motioned to go into Executive Session to have an update on the Town Manager position. Seconded by Betty McDermott.

VOTE: Unanimous.

RECESS: Tim Pomerleau recessed the meeting at 8:24 pm.

MOTION: Michael McClellan motioned to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Betty McDermott.

VOTE: Unanimous.

RE-OPEN MEETING: Tim Pomerleau re-opened the meeting at 8:24 pm saying that they would meet on Wednesday, October 25, 2000 at 6:00 pm to negotiate with the proposed Town Manager in Executive Session.

MEETING DATE CHANGE: The Selectmen decided to hold their scheduled November 8th meeting on November 6th at 7:00 pm at the Town Office.

7. Review and authorize October 17, 2000 Treasurer's Warrant.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrant in the amount of \$110,121.83. Seconded by Ada Brown.

VOTE: Unanimous.

8. Adjourn.

MOTION: Michael McClellan motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Betty McDermott.

VOTE: Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: Tim Pomerleau adjourned the meeting at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise H. Lester
Secretary