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Raymond is sworn in; Taylor's Isle plan shown

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By Peter Boody

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-- in addition to addressing highway barn and housing project issues (see stories page one) -- witnessed the swearing in of new Councilman Neal Raymond; briefly discussed plans to hire an aerial surveyor to conduct an infrared deer count; reviewed bids with Supervisor Art Williams for a new waste hauling contract; got ready to adopt a 2006 town budget at the board's regular meeting Friday and met in executive session to interview candidates for open seats on the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Assessment Board of Review.

It also met behind closed doors to continue its negotiations with the new Civil Service Employees Association unit. Supervisor Art Williams invited Supervisor-elect Alfred Kilb to participate in those talks.

Also on Tuesday, the board looked at conceptual drawings that Councilman Peter Reich said had been prepared by Island architect Pam Pospisil for a structure to replace the run-down house on Taylor's Island, which the town obtained as a bequest from the family years ago and has never been sure what to do with. There have long been concerns that the old house is dangerous and exposes the town to liability for injuries there.

The drawings show an open-air building like the structure on St. Mary's Road at the Shelter Island Nursery, Mr. Reich said, with "no glass, no paint, no plumbing, no electricity." He said "people complain the building is a landmark ... The idea is" to replace it with a "functional, safe image of the building."

After Tuesday's meeting went behind closed doors, Supervisor Williams reported that Moody's investor service had issued an A-1 rating for the town bonds because of its excellent financial condition.