

Vice Chairman Jack Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Raymond High School Media Center. Members present: Dick Wood, Jack Barnes, and Greg Bemis. Absent: Norman Weldy and Frank Bishop. Also present: Town Manager Bates.

Norman Weldy and Frank Bishop are state representatives and all the state representatives are in Concord tonight doing state/county work.

Vice Chairman Barnes led a salute to the flag and held a moment of silence for our departed citizens.

Vice Chairman Barnes opened the public hearing to hear public comment on Article 16 of the Town Warrant at 7:03 p.m.

Article 16 read as follows:

To see if the town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 162-K Municipal Economic Development and Revitalization Districts, which if adopted will enable the town to exercise the authority, powers, duties and responsibilities set forth in RSA 162-K, including the power of the town meeting to establish tax increment financing districts and plans. This is recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Vice Chairman Barnes then invited public input. Hearing no public input, Vice Chairman Barnes closed the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Vice Chairman Barnes opened the public hearing to hear public comment on Article 30 of the Town Warrant at 7:06 p.m.

Article 30 reads as follows:

To see if the town will adopt the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict all the revenues from police outside details to expenditures for the purpose of paying these police officers for outside details worked and their associated costs. Such revenue and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the police outside detail fund separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote by the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount of said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or source of the revenue. A majority vote is required and it is recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Vice Chairman Barnes then invited public input. Hearing no public input, Vice Chairman Barnes closed the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Vice Chairman Barnes opened the public hearing to hear public comment on Article 31 of the Town Warrant at 7:09 p.m.

Article 31 reads as follows:

To see if the town will adopt the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict all the revenues of cable television franchise fees to expenditures for the purpose of paying cable television associated costs. Such revenue and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the cable television fund, separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote by the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount from said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or source of the revenue. A majority vote is required and it is recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Vice Chairman Barnes then invited public input. Hearing no public input, Vice Chairman Barnes closed the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Vice Chairman Barnes opened the public hearing to hear public comment on Article 32 of the Town Warrant at 7:11 p.m.

Article 32 reads as follows:

To see if the town will adopt the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict all the revenues from the State of New Hampshire Highway Block Grants to expenditures for the purpose of paying for roadway shim and overlay and associated costs. Such revenue and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the shim and overlay fund, separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote by the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount from said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or source of the revenue. A majority vote is required and it is recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Vice Chairman Barnes then invited public input. Hearing no public input, Vice Chairman Barnes closed the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Vice Chairman Barnes opened the public hearing to hear public comment on Article 33 of the Town Warrant at 7:14 p.m.

Article 33 reads as follows:

To see if the town will adopt the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict the revenues from the sale of trash bags, transfer station and recycling revenues to expenditures of the purpose of paying for trash pickup and removal and its associated costs. Such revenue and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the waste disposal fund, separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not

be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote by the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount from said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or source of the revenue. A majority vote is required and it is recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Vice Chairman Barnes then invited public input. Hearing no public input, Vice Chairman Barnes closed the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Vice Chairman Barnes opened the public hearing to hear public comment on Article 38 of the Town Warrant at 7:15 p.m.

Article 38 reads as follows:

Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 40:13 known as Senate Bill 2 as adopted by the Town of Raymond on March 12, 2002 so that the official ballot will no longer be used for voting on all questions, but only for the election of officers and certain other questions for which the official ballot is required by State law. This is a petition warrant article. A 60% vote of the citizens is required.

Vice Chairman Barnes then invited public input. There is public comment, however the person is not in attendance it is via a letter and Vice Chairman Barnes then read the letter. The letter is from Doug Vogel, Raymond Taxpayer.

Subject: Public hearing on citizen's petition to rescind SB2, Article 38

"I request that you read the following statement during the public hearing for Article 38 as I am not able to attend due to a prior commitment. It is my assessment that the removal of Senate Bill 2 as the means of voting and voicing the opinions of the Raymond Townspeople is completely and utterly the wrong direction that this growing town needs. Rescinding Senate Bill 2 will effectively reduce the voting population from approximately 2,000 of the 6,000 registered voters all the way down to most likely a 200 dismal voters if we are lucky. This action would decrease the approximately 33% of the registered votes down to a horrendous 4% of the Town of Raymond voters. It is already a shame that we do not get more of our registered voters to the polls. Why intentionally reduce it further? Removal of Senate Bill 2 would also remove all ability of those that are out of town on business and those Raymond citizens serving our country and protecting all of our rights to vote. Any action that remove by the law the right of a serviceman's and a servicewoman's ability to vote is simply and purely the greatest injustice to our military neighbors and our great democracy. There are several benefits and drawbacks to each and every choice we make. The town meeting form of government is no exception. It has it's own positives and negatives, just like Senate Bill 2. However, the growing size of Raymond, the limited voting facilities and the inability to submit absentee ballots are the largest of these drawbacks that make rescinding Senate Bill 2 a larger negative than returning back to the town meeting form of government. I encourage all voters to cast your vote against Article 38 and keep the present form of maximizing voter turnout for our future. Thank you for allowing me this time and I

regret that I cannot be there to make this statement in person. Very respectfully, Doug Vogel, Town Taxpayer, Town of Raymond.

Vice Chairman Barnes asked if there was any further public input on Article 38, hearing none, Vice Chairman Barnes closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Vice Chairman Barnes opened the public hearing to hear public comment on Article 41 of the Town Warrant at 7:16 p.m.

Article 41 reads as follows:

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14b to delegate the determination of the default budget to the Municipal Budget Committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14. A three-fifths ballot vote is required. This is a petition warrant article.

Vice Chairman Barnes then invited public input. There is public comment, however the person is not in attendance it is via a letter and Vice Chairman Barnes then read the letter. The letter is from Doug Vogel, Raymond Taxpayer.

Subject: The public hearing on citizen petition to transfer the default budget to the budget committee, Article 41.

“I request that you read the following statement during the public hearing for Article 41 as I am not able to attend due to a prior commitment. I am the author of this citizen’s petition article and believe strongly that the best way to serve the community is with teamwork and integrity. We must join together as a complete team with the priorities of the Selectmen being that of the invisible public and the second priority is the financial responsibility towards the taxpayers. The budget committee’s duties are the same as the Selectmen with the reversal of priorities. The fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers is their primary duty with our municipal keenness secondary, though not neglected. It is with this statement I initiated this request to transfer the responsibility of deterring of the default budget in accordance with the RSA’s, to the budget committee. Thus, leaving the Selectmen the major responsibility of providing support and guidance to the Town Manager and staff. The budget committee would have to work harder and in greater cooperation with the Selectmen to calculate the default budget. Will this be easy? No. It will take a lot of time and dedication, so why not transfer this time consuming task to the budget committee and free up the Selectmen to concentrate more on the issues directly impacting the everyday operations of the town and next year’s operations. This is the checks and balances that this process needs. Presently the Selectmen develop but the default budget and the recommended operating budget. The budget committee then has the responsibility to further define the recommended budget into a proposed operating budget for the first session. It is at this stage that the townspeople then adjust and approve the operating budget for the warrant article in March. In this process, the proposed operating budget is primarily placed on the budget committee, while the default calculation is placed with the Selectmen. I propose the responsibility to calculate the default budget be with the budget committee and the determination for public approval be

held by the Selectmen. I know that this seems contrary to the present RSAs, but it is not. There is only a different methodology. Once again, during the first session the people always have the final say to the operating budget. Who should really have the last word and strongest recommendation to the public prior to their approval? The Selectmen would be my vote, appoint the budget committee as the elected committee responsible for preparing a fallback/default budget in accordance with the RSAs, thus leaving the Selectmen ample time to analyze and determine next year's operating budget with the budget committee to supporting it and the townspeople to approve it at the first session for placement onto the warrant article. We all acknowledge that Senate Bill 2 is still relatively untested throughout New Hampshire and is still new in Raymond and even this better means of government is not perfect and is in need of further enhancements. Here we have an opportunity to step up and improve the process that is recognized at the State House as needing improvements and is in pending flux. Raymond, take this juncture to assign the budget committee the default budget and the backup position in support of the Selectmen and a future team for Raymond. I encourage all voters to spread the wealth to distribute the checks and balances to the budget committee and vote yes on Article 41. Thank you for allowing me this time and I regret that I could not be here to make this statement in person. Very respectfully, Doug Vogel, Raymond Taxpayer.

Vice Chairman Barnes asked if there were any other citizens that would like to speak on this petition warrant article, hearing none, Vice Chairman Barnes closed the public hearing at 7:23 p.m.

Vice Chairman Barnes stated that concludes the public hearing on these articles and closed the public hearing.

Motion by Selectmen Wood to adjourn, seconded by Selectmen Bemis. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy L. Cramer
Selectmen's Secretary/
Recording Secretary