

Place: Raymond High School Media Center

Call to order: 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Gail Columbus, Colleen West Coates, Doug Vogel, Ed French, Sandy Ellis, School Board Representative John Harmon and Selectmen's Representative Tim Auclair.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing – Raymond School District Warrant Articles

John Harmon gave a power point presentation on the School District Warrant Articles. *A copy of the proposed Warrant Articles is attached to the original set of minutes on file in Town Clerk's Office and available for review during regular business hours.*

Article 10 – Citizen's petition to have the School district reserve \$175,000 dollars from the middle school bond interest to conduct a facilities assessment.

David Spinney and Brian Campbell discussed their concerns that approximately \$450,000 raised in interest from the Middle School Bond was going to be returned to the general fund. They want that money to remain in case there are other costs that arise such as cable wiring and getting a generator.

Brian Campbell stated the building will be done this month. It's all worked very well. None of the building committee knew that the School Board was planning to return this money to budget. There was no public hearing and it was not on the School Board Agenda. This did not appear as a revenue list either. If nothing else it should have been put out to the public. It's a good thing when a sound investment has been done and money has been made.

Ed French commented that it has come up in the past that money would be returned to the voters and just to clarify no money is being proposed to be spent.

Brian Campbell agreed, the money is just to be set aside.

Note: Chairman Columbus excused herself from the meeting due to illness. Vice Chairman Colleen West Coates assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Articles 12, and 13 are citizen's petitions that require the raising and appropriation of money. The Budget Committee will vote to recommend or not recommend at the scheduled meeting for the School District review of Warrant Articles.

Public Hearing Town of Raymond Warrant Articles

A copy of the proposed Warrant Articles is attached to the original set of minutes on file in Town Clerk's Office and available for review during regular business hours.

Article 2

Police Chief Salois explained that both Dispatch and Police are having a problem retaining personnel because of the pay scale. Raymond pays 17% below the average

starting pay for other communities in our County. Dispatch positions in Raymond start at 12.01 and other communities average their starting dispatch positions at 14.00 plus.

Selectman Barnes explained that the Board of Selectmen voted 5-0 to open the police and dispatch contract. He stressed the fact that Raymond has a good police department and even people in Concord have told him that Raymond is highly regarded.

Tim Auclair explained the costs of training one officer. The training alone is \$14,000, however, other costs include uniforms, equipment and the hiring process.

Article 3

Tim Auclair stated that this article is for the non-union police and four full time fire employees.

Selectman Barnes stated that Chief Salois did not include himself in the 10% raise increase. He only asked for 5%

Article 5

Scholarship fund – established in 2000 by the Board of Selectmen.

Acting Chairman West-Coates closed the public hearings on warrant articles. Because there were several people in the audience that expected to address a portion of the operating budget, she opened the public hearing on the operating budget.

Angel Miller, Luke Papamichael, Dave Spinney and Jim Eames all spoke in strong support of the programs sponsored by the Recreation Department. Residents ranging in age from 4 to 104 benefit from the programs.

Articles 11, 12, 13 and 14 are related to the CIP

Article 15 – Study to repair the drainage problem on Brown Road.

Two residents of Brown Road explained that there is a grade and drainage problem. There is a need for culverts and swales because the water pools on the edge of the road.

Sandy Ellis suggested that the company that did the work should be made to go in and repair it.

Tim Auclair pointed out that it's a little more complicated than that and the Town is not responsible for the road drainage problems.

Article 16 – Mosquito Control

Selectman Barnes explained that the State is trying to come up with more money to assist Towns with this program.

Article 18 – Road Construction

Tim Auclair stated that this is put in every year and the goal is to complete Onway Lake Road.

RECESS

MOTION: Ed French made a motion to recess the Public Hearing on the Town Operating Budget to Tuesday, January 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center at Raymond High School.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Ed French made a motion to approve the minutes of 01/09/07 as presented. Sandra Ellis seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Adjournment

MOTION: Ed French made a motion to adjourn the Budget Committee Meeting @ 9:44 p.m. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette Patterson
Recording Secretary