

**Place:** Raymond High School Media Center  
**Call to order:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Members present:** Gail Columbus, Colleen West Coates, Doug Vogel, Ed Miller, .  
Ed French, Sandy Ellis, Jim Tuttle, School Board Representative  
John Harmon and Selectmen's Representative Tim Auclair .

### **Town of Raymond Proposed Warrant Articles**

Finance Director Grace Collette and Town Manager Richard Bates presented the proposed 2007 Warrant Articles to the Budget Committee.

Town Manager Bates introduced Celeste Clark, Director of the Raymond Coalition on Youth and her assistant Tammy Reardon. He explained that the Raymond Coalition on Youth is a non profit organization that is requesting assistance from the Town.

Celeste Clark, Director of RCY, distributed a letter describing the various services they provide. RCY provides lots of programs for the kids and for their parents. They have collected \$2,700 for a food drive and are currently collecting Toys for Tots. Up until now they have done their own funding. Ms. Clark stated that they have requested to be placed on the social services list. The annual RCY budget is \$65,000 which includes the Salaries for three part time employees for \$32,000. The remainder of the money all goes to the youth of Raymond. One of the programs that was supported was Project Safe Guard. RCY took the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students to Southern New Hampshire University, along with parents, to participate in a program designed specifically for that age group. Parents meet once a month to discuss different topics. RCY is a certified non-profit agency and they file a 990 and annual report.

Ed Miller asked how much do other organizations such as Big Brothers give RCY?

Celeste Clark replied RCY does not receive funding from other organizations. They work to unite services together.

Town Manager Bates explained that the Board of Selectmen have not made a decision on whether to add RCY to the social services list or to have it be a separate warrant article.

Celeste Clark thanked the Budget Committee for the opportunity to make this presentation.

Town Manager Bates stated that Article A does not have a cost because the Police Union and the Town are currently in negotiations. He stated that one of problems the Town has is that we are losing officers to other communities.

Town Manager Bates stated that Article C is to purchase the State Salt Shed property. The property was appraised at \$322,000 by the State, however, a local appraiser thinks that is over appraised.

Selectman Jack Barnes stated that this situation has been going on for a number of years. He has worked with the Commissioner at the State regarding when the State property will become available. Mr. Barnes stated that he did not think we should have this as a warrant article at this time. Before the property is sold, the Town of Raymond will be offered to purchase it first.

Town Manager Bates stated that the Article is just a place holder and the \$366,000 is just an amount. The State is currently using the shed to house two brine trucks.

Tim Auclair stated that this article would give the voters an opportunity to give their opinion.

Doug Vogel asked if the property was for sale.

Selectman Barnes replied no.

Town Manager Bates stated that we do know it's coming because we have had conversations with the Commissioner. We are not in a rush to do this but we do not want to miss an opportunity.

Selectman Barnes stated the State will work with the Town to get it at the next Town Meeting. He added that he will call the Commissioner tomorrow to find out what is going on.

Tim Auclair stated there are CIP funds for this but not enough to cover the entire purchase.

Town Manager Bates stated that they are awaiting the amounts for Article E (water) from Public Works Director Dennis McCarthy. Water rates will not change, there will be no increase.

Tim Auclair stated that the CIP in Article F may become separate warrant articles. The total funding should be \$74,000, the big part of that being new facilities.

Town Manager Bates stated that Article G has no increases. (Social Services) He explained that if a social service agency requests the same amount of funding we do not require them to come before the Board of Selectmen.

Finance Director Grace Collette stated that we do not solicit these agencies, but we did send letters to those that have been funded in the past. This was done to get answers to questions from the Selectmen.

Sandy Ellis stated that some of these agencies provide services to the school that would cost us a lot of money otherwise.

Doug Vogel asked if the Town was concerned with the fact that 25% of some of these agency's budgets go to the administration.

Town Manager Bates stated that funding is up to the voters.

Ed French stated that he thought we need to address these questions regarding administration costs.

Article H is for the engineering study in the Green Hills area. Selectman Bishop stated that the drain is on the Town Road and it should be taken care of.

Ed Miller stated that the study is \$50,000. He asked why it's the Town's issue if Pennichuck Water is the one that put the water line in.

The discussion focused on if the Town should be responsible for fixing a drainage problem on private property.

Article I is for the treatment of mosquito larvae. The amount is the same as last year because the Town has not received the final numbers.

Town Manager Bates stated that the treatment is a preventative measure and the goal is to eliminate spraying. There was one infected mosquito found this year and spraying was done at the sports fields with the permission of the School Board.

Ed Miller asked about State funding.

Tim Auclair stated that the cost of the spraying was \$2,000, the treatment and testing were a separate cost.

Town Manager Bates stated that the Town is still waiting for the State funding.

Article J is to complete the repairs to Onway Lake Road and it is up by \$4,000.

Articles K, L & M are Articles regarding exemptions. The Budget Committee does not have to deal with, however, the Chairman opened them for discussion.

Doug Vogel stated that it does effect us because it has important tax impacts. He asked what the tax effect of all of them are.

Tim Auclair stated that there is a zero tax increase if this passes.

Doug Vogel asked what the difference would be if all the exemptions were deleted.

Town Manager Bates stated we have a report of all the town's exemptions and the breakdown of exemptions for a comparison.

Chairman Gail Columbus closed the work session on the Warrant Articles.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Ed French made a motion to approve the minutes of November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 as presented. Colleen West Coates seconded. Voted in the affirmative.

MOTION: Ed French made a motion to approve the minutes of October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006 as presented. John Harmon seconded. Tim Auclair abstained. Voted in the affirmative.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Ed Miller made a motion to adjourn. Sandy Ellis seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette Patterson