

Town of Raymond
401 Webbs Mills Road
Raymond, Maine 04071

BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING

MINUTES
Monday, March 20, 2006

Attendance: Rolf Olsen, Chairman Budget Committee; Suzanne Brockelbank; Tucker Cole; Dennis Cole; Jean Carter; Budget/Finance Committee; Sandra Caldwell, Superintendent; and Teresa Sadak, Wendy Trask; Roger Ginn, School Committee.

Staff: None

1. Call to order. Rolf Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm at the Town Office.
2. To approve the minutes of:
 - a. March 13, 2006

Corrections: Mr. Olsen asked to correct page 4 first paragraph to say, "If Windham was offering a good program they wouldn't have any problem getting 50% of Raymond's students."

MOTION: Jean Carter motioned to approve the minutes of March 13, 2006, with Mr. Olsen's correction. Seconded by Tucker Cole.

VOTE: Unanimous. 5-0

NOTE: Mr. Olsen announced that they would vote the articles as they appear on the copy provided by the Superintendent. Numbers do not appear on the articles because they haven't been included in the warrant as yet.

He asked if there were any general questions. Mrs. Carter wanted to know if a majority will put the article on the warrant or if a certain number needs to be voted i.e. unanimous. Mr. Olsen explained that a unanimous vote of the attendees tonight would be needed to recommend an article which means five, without more than five members present the vote would have to be unanimous. An article could be proposed for our next meeting if the quorum couldn't agree tonight. A vote would necessitate that action tonight. Mr. Olsen reviewed that a majority of the members and not a majority of those present passes an article.

3. 2006-2007 School Department Budget.

ARTICLE : To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the foundation allocation and other revenues for Health Services

The School Board requests \$79,263

MOTION: Suzanne Brockelbank motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Tucker Cole.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

ARTICLE :To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the foundation allocation and other revenues for Library Services.

The School Board requests \$87,994

MOTION Suzanne Brockelbank motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Tucker Cole.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Carter thought that the two libraries Jordan Small Middle School at \$30,000, plus Raymond Elementary School at \$57,000, and the Village Library at \$25,000 was a lot of funding for libraries. Mr. Olsen said that the town library is servicing the whole town, adults and children, plus the staff is basically voluntary. Mrs. Carter thought that RES is excessive and would like to cut that budget by \$20,000. This still makes school libraries very expensive. Mrs. Carter didn't think that the decision as to which school made the cut was the Budget Committees but take the \$20,000 from the school system's budget. Mrs. Caldwell noted that the classroom curriculum materials for the classes are included in this budget category. Mrs. Carter quoted amounts contained in the Comprehensive Plan. She felt our schools shouldn't cost three times the state average for our size town. Mr. Olsen noted there was a shift from the JSMS to the RES budget. Mrs. Caldwell said they now have a new certified librarian which is split between the schools because the state requires a certified librarian. Mrs. Carter said she would like to cut the \$20,000 at the end of the budget so that the superintendent can sort out from where the money will be taken. She felt it was noteworthy to the public to see that the Budget Committee has done something with the budget and not just accept the submitted budget from the School Administration.

MOTION: Jean Carter motioned to reduce the request by \$20,000 and recommend \$67,994. No second.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: 4 in favor (Olsen, T. Cole, Brockelbank, D. Cole) 1 opposition (Carter)

No recommendation at this time.

ARTICLE To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the Foundation Allocation and other revenues for Office of the Superintendent//Principal/School Board.

The School Board requests \$280,400.

MOTION: Tucker Cole motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Suzanne Brockelbank.

VOTE: 4 in favor (Olsen, T. Cole, Brockelbank, D. Cole) 1 opposition (Carter)
No recommendation at this time.

ARTICLE :To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the Foundation Allocation and other revenues for Operation and Maintenance of Plant.

The School Board requests \$658,994.

MOTION: Suzanne Brockelbank motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Tucker Cole.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

ARTICLE : To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the foundation allocation and other revenues for Student Transportation.

The School Committee requests \$413,979.

MOTION: Tucker Cole motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Suzanne Brockelbank

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

ARTICLE : To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the foundation allocation and other revenues for Contingency.

The School Committee requests \$30,000

MOTION: Suzanne Brockelbank motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Tucker Cole.

VOTE: 4 in favor (Olsen, T. Cole, Brockelbank, D. Cole) 1 opposition (Carter)
No recommendation at this time.

ARTICLE : To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the foundation allocation and other revenues for Regular Elementary Instruction.

The School Committee requests \$2,648,405.

NOTE: Davie Rowe arrived.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Brockelbank questioned the lines included in this amount: 23,39,138 and assessment line 90 & 189 but doesn't include tuition.

MOTION: Suzanne Brockelbank motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by David Rowe

VOTE: Unanimous 6-0

ARTICLE : To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the foundation allocation and other revenues for Regular Elementary K-8 Guidance Services.

The School Committee requests \$120,354.

MOTION: Tucker Cole motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by David Rowe

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Carter felt that was high. Mrs. Caldwell said this added one-day for a full time equivalent at each school and compensated with a reduction in social work.

MOTION: Jean Carter motioned to cut this article by \$20,000 from the request making it \$100,354. No second.

VOTE: 5 in favor (Olsen, T. Cole, Brockelbank, D. Cole, Rowe) 1 opposition (Carter)

ARTICLE : To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the foundation allocation and other revenues for Improvement to Instruction.

The School Board requests \$59,942.

MOTION: Tucker Cole motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Suzanne Brockelbank.

VOTE: Unanimous 6-0

ARTICLE : To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the foundation allocation and other revenues for Regular Secondary Instruction.

The School Board requests \$2,056,110.

MOTION: Suzanne Brockelbank motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Tucker Cole.

VOTE: Unanimous 6-0

ARTICLE : To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the foundation allocation and other revenues for Special Education.

The School Committee requests \$1,279,679.

MOTION: David Rowe motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Tucker Cole.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Carter noted that this is a very large part of the school budget and would like to see it cut \$300,000. Mr. Rowe said most is mandated and can't be cut. Mrs. Caldwell assured them that they looked hard at any possible reduction.

MOTION: Jean Carter motioned to take \$300,000 from the Special Education article.
No second.

VOTE: 5 in favor (Olsen, T. Cole, Brockelbank, D. Cole, Rowe) 1 opposition
(Carter)

ARTICLE : To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the foundation allocation and other revenues for Elementary/Middle School Administration. The School Board requests \$281,798.

MOTION: Tucker Cole motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by David Rowe.

VOTE: Unanimous 6-0

ARTICLE : To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the foundation allocation and other revenues for Elementary/Middle School Co-Curricular.

The School Board requests \$40,264.

MOTION: Suzanne Brockelbank motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by David Rowe

VOTE: Unanimous 6-0

ARTICLE : To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the foundation allocation and other revenues for Food Service.

The School Board requests \$14,000.

MOTION: David Rowe motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Tucker Cole.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Carter asked why it went up a third over last year. Mrs. Caldwell replied that the School Board wanted to see more healthy choices for the children especially in the middle school where they have enjoyed the salad bar. The problem is that the salad bar is more expensive.

VOTE: Unanimous 6-0

ARTICLE : To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate to purchase two new school busses.

The School Board requests \$115,000.

MOTION: Tucker Cole motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by David Rowe.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Carter asked why they were purchasing two buses. She thought that with the burned out bus that would make three. Mrs. Caldwell said that these are not suitable to use and need to be replaced and the short bus will be paid for with the fire insurance.

VOTE: Unanimous 6-0

ARTICLE :To see what sum the Town of Raymond will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade 12, as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act. (Recommend \$7,205,351) and to see what sum the Town of Raymond will raise as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

The School Committee requests \$5,538,500.

Explanation: The Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the Town must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

MOTION: David Rowe motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Tucker Cole.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Olsen explained that this article includes those which have no recommendations at this point. Mrs. Brockelbank suggested going back to the other articles for reconsideration.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: David Rowe and Tucker Cole withdrew their motion and second.

MOTION: Suzanne Brockelbank motioned to reconsider the library services article with the amount of \$87,994. Seconded by Tucker Cole.

VOTE: Unanimous 6-0

MOTION: Tucker Cole motioned to recommend the Library Services article in the amount of \$87,994. Seconded by David Rowe.

VOTE: 5 in favor (Olsen, T. Cole, Brockelbank, D. Cole, Rowe) 1 opposition (Carter)

MOTION: Suzanne Brockelbank motioned to reconsider the Office of the Superintendent/Principal/School Board article with the amount of \$280,400. Seconded by Tucker Cole.

VOTE: Unanimous 6-0

MOTION: Davie Rowe motioned to recommend this article for Office of the Superintendent/Principal/School board with the amount of \$280,400. Seconded Tucker Cole.

VOTE: Unanimous 6-0

MOTION: Suzanne Brockelbank motioned to reconsider the article for Contingency with the amount of \$30,000. Seconded by Tucker Cole.

VOTE: Unanimous 6-0

MOTION: David Rowe motioned to recommend the article for Contingency with the amount of \$30,000. Seconded by Tucker Cole.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Carter felt this was too much for a contingency and not necessary because they can move money around in the budget as needed. Tucker Cole felt that as a percentage of the whole budget, this wasn't much.

VOTE: 5 in favor (Olsen, T. Cole, Brockelbank, D. Cole, Rowe) 1 opposition (Carter)

ARTICLE to see what sum the Town of Raymond will raise and appropriate in additional local funds the School Board requests \$1,492,706 be raised, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$941,462.

The School Board requests \$1,492,706.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual Debt Service payment on non-state funded portion of the school construction project.

STATEMENT OF REASONS: The amount of \$941,462 which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model of \$7,756,595 for grades Kindergarten to Grade 12 is explained by the actual anticipated cost in tuition for Grades 9 -12, Technology and Transportation (Costs included in the model but funded at 90%), and Special Education Costs.

MOTION: David Rowe motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Suzanne Brockelbank.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Carter felt that \$1mil over the state recommended amount is really thumbing our nose at the state. She felt that if something which was needed specifically was here instead of the tuition, it would be more acceptable if the town voted to pass it. Mr. Rowe said this was just covering the deficit which isn't covered under the state mandate. Mr. Olsen felt this represents only 25% and not 55% from the state for school funding. Raymond will never get 55% of our cost. Mrs. Carter felt the state's mandate was worth a try to see how nicely we can get along at their level. She didn't think it was fair to the taxpayer to present this article for something which we must pay in any case. Mr. Olsen felt that the state was not allowing a true amount for tuition and expected the town to pay the rest. Mrs. Carter didn't feel that we were using this article as the Department of Education Director, Susan Gendron, described. Mr. Olsen asked Mrs. Caldwell if everything in this article was above the EPS. Mrs. Caldwell noted the explanation below the article "statement of reason". Mr. Olsen had concern that one article will if defeated lose it all. Mrs. Caldwell said it has to be written this way.

VOTE: 5 in favor (Olsen, T. Cole, Brockelbank, D. Cole, Rowe) 1 opposition (Carter)

ARTICLE : To see what sum the Municipality will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1,2006 and ending June 30, 2007 from

the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state funded portion of school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

The School Board requests \$8,818,057.

MOTION: David Rowe motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Tucker Cole.
VOTE: Unanimous 6-0

ARTICLE : To see if the town will authorize the School Board, for the fiscal year 2006-2007 to transfer funds between budget programs so long as the grand total of all appropriations is not exceeded. Any such transfers to be approved only at a properly called public meeting of the School Board.

MOTION: David Rowe motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Tucker Cole.
VOTE: Unanimous 6-0

ARTICLE Shall the Town vote to accept the categories of funds listed below as provided by the Maine State Legislature.

LOCAL ENTITLEMENT		\$165,382
IDEA (Part B) Local Entitlement		\$ 1,048
R.E.A.P.		\$ 34,024
N.C.L.B.	TITLE 11A	\$18,674
	TITLE11D	\$ 1,150
	TITLE 1	\$ 46,628
	TITLE IVA	\$ 2,832
	TITLE V	\$ 1,908
	TITLE IVB	\$100,000

MOTION: David Rowe motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Tucker Cole. (and any other funds that become available) seconded Tucker
VOTE: Unanimous.

NEXT MEETING: April 3, 2006 at 7:00 PM at the town office.

ADJOURNMENT: Rolf Olsen adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk