

Town of Raymond  
401 Webbs Mills Road  
Raymond, Maine 04071

BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, June 18, 2008

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Rolf Olsen; Ralph Bartholomew; Dennis Cole; Jean Carter; Bob Gosselin; Will Chapman; Marshall Bullock; and Jerilyn Ward.

BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE ABSENT: Sue Accardi

SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Teresa Sadak, Wendy Trask, Gregg Tangen, Jeri Keane

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT: Martha Page

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Mike Reynolds, and Joe Bruno

SCHOOL STAFF ATTENDANCE: Sandra Caldwell, Superintendent; Norma Richard, RES Principal; Randy Crockett, JSMS Principal; and Pat Menzel, Special Education Director.

OTHERS: About 30.

1. Call to order. Rolf Olsen called the meeting to order at 8:07 pm at the Broadcast Studio.
2. Approval of the minutes of April 14, 2008 and May 19, 2008.

MOTION: Marshall Bullock motioned to approve the minutes of April 14, 2008. Seconded by Bob Gosselin  
VOTE: Carried.

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to approve the minutes of May 19, 2008. Seconded by Marshall Bullock.  
VOTE: Carried.

3. Elect Chairman for 2008/2009.

NOMINATION: Ralph Bartholomew nominated Rolf Olsen for Chairman. Seconded.

MOTION FOR NOMINATIONS TO CEASE: Motion and Second.  
VOTE: Carried.

VOTE FOR ROLF OLSEN: Carried.

4. Review and make recommendations on School Budget Warrant Articles.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bartholomew noted the work of the School Board to date indicating that they were presenting the original numbers reflecting the \$170,000 which the Budget Committee reduced the article amount on the first town meeting warrant . The net reduction voted will be \$116,000 from the last presented budget to town meeting which is in Article 45. Mrs. Caldwell said that tonight \$170,000 was presented in proposed reductions, however, the School Board voted to increase the Operations and Maintenance budget by \$54,000 to be able to keep our janitorial staff. The current total is \$8,935,040. Mr. Tangen said that the School Board reduced their budget but the decrease in revenues this year has forced the increase we're seeing. Mr. Olsen noted a 68 student decrease within the last two years. Mr. Tangen added that those students are spread over 12 grades. Ms. Richard reviewed the places where the School Board and administration looked for cuts to satisfy the EPS directive saying that they tried their best to make cuts which would impact the students as little as possible. She reminded everyone that when the town elected to operate two buildings in order to bring the middle school students back to Raymond it was understood that it would increase the town's cost. Frank Emery asked why the support staff in Administration was getting a 24% increase in benefits. Mrs. Sadak said it was changes in the existing insurance program for the same employees. Mrs. Caldwell added that they cut back the hours of the Administrative personnel for a 10% decrease.

Charles Leavitt reviewed that at the beginning of this budget discussion in February there was a surplus of \$153,000. Mr. Olsen said it was being used for the air quality repair work. Mr. Leavitt felt that if the work hasn't been done more can be saved from that expense to go toward the next budget.

Gordon Street related that the school was doing a good job in handling the uncontrollable increases presented to them because of uncontrolled revenue cuts from the federal and state governments and added expense from things like fuel for heat and transportation. Jennifer Danzig suggested that the voter didn't have an opportunity to say why they voted on the ballot as they did in other communities. Mrs. Caldwell said that the ballot they submitted was not used as the official referendum ballot. Mr. Bartholomew felt that this year was difficult for everyone, and he had a lack of confidence in the process because there were so many changes throughout.

Harold McLain thought that our district is top heavy in administration. It was said that was the goal of consolidation to relieve that condition. Charles Leavitt felt that the largest problem is in keeping the matter of high school choice. He asked what the process would be in the near future. If this next referendum is defeated what budget will we be working under. There was discussion about the format set by the new school consolidation law regarding the last town meeting passed budget which will be operational until a budget passes a referendum vote.

NOTE: The first article number is from the original warrant dated May 28, 2008 and the second is the warrant dated June 27, 2008.

Article 38 or 2:

MOTION: Marshall Bullock motioned to recommend \$4,327,292, a cut of \$39,242. Seconded by Jean Carter.

VOTE: Failed

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to approve \$4,378,050. Seconded by Ralph Bartholomew.

VOTE: Carried.

Article 38 or 3:

MOTION: Robert Gosselin motioned to recommend \$1,573,510. Seconded by Ralph Bartholomew.

VOTE: Carried.

Article 39 or 4:

MOTION: Ralph Bartholomew motioned to recommend \$36,598. Seconded by Dennis Cole.

VOTE: Carried.

Article 40 or 5:

MOTION: Ralph Bartholomew motioned to recommend \$541,979. Seconded by Bob Gosselin.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bullock noted that this article was originally reduced by the Budget Committee by \$20,000.

VOTE: Carried.

Article 41 or 6:

MOTION: Ralph Bartholomew motioned to recommend \$296,646. Seconded by Bob Gosselin.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bullock noted that this article was originally reduced by the Budget Committee by \$10,000.

VOTE: Carried.

Article 42 or 7:

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend \$278,193. Seconded by Ralph Bartholomew.

VOTE: Carried.

Article 43 or 8:

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend \$479,604. Seconded by Ralph Bartholomew.

VOTE: Carried.

Article 44 or 9:

MOTION: Jerilyn Ward motioned to recommend \$640,311. Seconded by Marshall Bullock.

VOTE: Carried.

Article 45 or 10:

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend \$618,149. Seconded by Ralph Bartholomew.

VOTE: Carried.

Article 46 or 11:

MOTION: Marshall Bullock motioned to recommend \$38,000. Seconded by Bob Gosselin.

VOTE: Carried.

Article 47 or 12:

MOTION: Ralph Bartholomew motioned to recommend \$6,233,635. Seconded by Jerilyn Ward.

VOTE: Carried.

Article 48 or 13:

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend \$15,629. Seconded by Jerilyn Ward.

VOTE: Carried.

Article 49 or 14:

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend \$1,478,383. Seconded by Ralph Bartholomew.

VOTE: Carried.

Article 50 or 15:

MOTION: Jerilyn Ward motioned to recommend \$8,881,040. Seconded by Bob Gosselin.

VOTE: Carried.

5. Old Business.  
None

6. New Business.  
None

7. Adjourn. Rolf Olsen adjourned the meeting at 10:15 pm.

Louise H. Lester  
Town Clerk