

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen & Budget/Finance Meeting
For Town and School Budgets
Monday, January 19, 1998

ATTENDANCE: Of the Selectmen: Stephanie Bubier, Chairman; Betty McDermott; Ernest Allen; Ada Brown; of the Budget/Finance Committee: Rolf Olsen, Chairman; Phil Hamilton; Louise Murray; Royce Moore; Louise Lester; Neil Southwick; Jane Jordan; David Bois, Superintendent; Norma Richard, Principal; Mike McClellan, Chairman of the School Committee; Meg Waters, Chairman of Special Education; Tim Pellerin, Fire Chief; Chris Champagne, Deputy Fire Chief; and Nathan Poore, Town Manager.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Stephanie Bubier called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm at the Town Hall. She added that at this time 60% of Raymond now has power back after the Ice Storm of '98.
2. Reply to letter from Glen Gisel dated December 30, 1997.

DISCUSSION: Stephanie Bubier opened by saying that she felt the letter's subject matter was derived from morale and personnel problems. Fire Chief, Tim Pellerin, reported that over the last 19 days Dispatch had 138 emergency calls (106 for fire and 32 for rescue). He is aware that there is a problem from time to time with daytime people to cover calls but there is a mutual aide agreement with abutting towns to cover those times when manpower is lacking. He added that Nathan White has been enlisted to drive a fire truck when necessary to help protect the citizens of Raymond. He said that the Truck Purchasing Committee has been working over six months and have diligently tried to keep the cost down and still get a truck which will be good for Raymond. He indicated that anyone can be involved in anything the Fire Department does including investigating the purchase of equipment. Chief Pellerin continued that Raymond's fire rating is 9 and can't get any better until a major revision to our personnel and equipment is made which will not happen soon and as well our rating won't get any worse because we have a department which the rating of 10 describes as a town which has no fire protection. He also said that the trucks had been checked on the night that they were found "dead" and they would have had to be sabotaged. During that time mutual aide acted as it was designed to. Chief Pellerin proudly said that their 43 members have donated 10,820 hours of time to date in training and meetings. He agreed that there was no reason to compete with other towns for equipment ownership. He felt that purchasing a truck a year earlier than planned in the CIP would not jeopardize the budget and possibly save some money. Chris Champagne explained that Engine 6 was purchased in 1969 for \$25,894 and that \$62,000 has been spent on it \$14,000 the last 3 years. Brian Rogers informed the meeting that training has covered 38 subjects using 1055 hours and they want to continue to improve. Mrs. Bubier asked how many calls have needed mutual aide. Chief Pellerin answered ten times and seven of those were automatic during a first response. Raymond has answered mutual aide calls to other towns 22 times. Mr. Hamilton thanked the fire fighters for their work and devotion to Raymond.

3. New truck purchase.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Champagne explained that the Department was trying to work in a 27 year rotation of trucks. Mrs. Lester asked if this proposed new truck could get to all parts of Raymond. Mr. Champagne replied yes that it is the same dimensions as

Engine 6 but is more maneuverable than Engine 1 because of a better axle setup. Mr. Hamilton had concern with the figures of Engine 6's sale and the purchase of a new truck. He wanted to delay this purchase and use the money somewhere else. Mr. Poore said that the price used was from information from vendors and sales people and not a real appraisal. If a new truck were to be purchased in the next two years, the best value would be to buy now. If the purchase was delayed five to six years that might be another matter because of interest, cost of the truck, and the value of Engine 6. Mr. Poore agreed. Dep. Chief Champagne said that values for Engine 6 he got from dealers was from \$5,000 to \$10,000. He added that the Town has never received over \$5,000 for any truck it has sold in the past. Mr. Allen asked if Raymond has a contract with Frye Island for their purchase of Engine 6? Dep. Chief Champagne replied only by word of Vic Richards the Island's manager that he has been authorized to spend up to \$30,000 for Engine 6. Mrs. Brown asked about the previously discussed cheaper truck. Dep. Chief Champagne replied that the less expensive truck was not the quality they are now proposing to purchase i.e. it had a steel body versus an aluminum body which will last longer. Mr. Moore asked if it would be possible to cut the budget in another area in order to cover the cost of the new truck? Mr. Poore replied that the CIP purchase should stand alone and the purchase of the truck should be a separate article: 1) an article to allow spending the CIP funds for a truck and 2) an article to allow the purchase of the truck.

MOTION BY SELECTMEN: Betty McDermott motioned to spend the CIP funds for a fire truck. Seconded by Stephanie Bubier.

NOTE: There was discussion about Mr. Murray being the fifth vote. Mr. Poore said that he had checked with the Town Attorney who said that he could vote by phone. Mr. Hamilton too issue with this procedure saying that it was not allowed in Roberts Rules of Procedure. He felt that if this was allowed that all absent members should be allowed to vote. Mr. Poore indicated that Mr. Murray was the only member who had asked to be able to vote by phone. Chief Pellerin said the Fire Department thought the phone vote was unfair because the voter was not able to hear the testimony given prior to that vote.

VOTE: Unanimous (with a vote by phone from Murray)

MOTION BY SELECTMEN: Betty McDermott motioned to purchase a fire truck using the CIP funds and approving the rest of the funding in another article. Seconded by Stephanie Bubier.

VOTE: 2 in favor (Bubier, McDermott) 3 opposed (Allen, Brown, vote by phone from Mr. Murray)

MOTION BY SELECTMEN: Ernest Allen motioned to not recommend purchase of the fire truck. Seconded by Brown.

VOTE: 3 in favor (Allen, Brown, Murray) 2 opposed (Bubier, McDermott)

MOTION BY BUDGET/FINANCE: Neil Southwick motioned that the Budget/Finance Committee recommends the purchase of a fire truck. Seconded by Jane Jordan.

VOTE: 4 in favor (Jordan, Olsen, Southwick, Lester) 3 opposed (Murray, Moore, Hamilton) Motion failed due to voting rules requiring at least five (5) votes in the affirmative.

RECESS: Stephanie Bubier called a recess at 7:55 pm.

RE-OPEN MEETING: Stephanie Bubier re-opened the meeting at 8:07 pm.

4. School Budget:

DISCUSSION: Mike McClellan noted that the transition to a full time principal and part time superintendent has been good. They are now in the second year of a three-year teachers' contract and the new negotiations will be this spring for the next contract. He noted that only the very necessary repairs would be done to Jordan Small as they wait for the retrofitting for the middle school. The new bus in the budget will be totally reimbursed by the State. They plan a public hearing on their budget January 21st at 7:00 pm at Jordan Small School. He added that 77% of the budget increase was due to tuitions and special education expense with about 20 more 7th grade students going outside of Raymond to school. Currently they have 8 buses with no spare bus. Mr. Hamilton asked if a new bus per year in the year could be included in the CIP. He felt that with 8 buses in the fleet with an estimated life of 8 years would indicate this planning. Mr. Bois reminded them that all the buses are now diesel which should extend their usefulness. He added that if the funds are available through the CIP or anywhere they couldn't apply for the State refund. Mr. Hamilton asked if there would be any new teaching positions. Mr. Bois replied none and all teachers are on the State scale. Mr. Hamilton asked about hiring teachers for the new school. Mr. Bois replied that only 7th grade teachers would be needed for the middle school the first two years if the school construction were moved up one year. Mr. McClellan said that a principal would be hired a year previously to the opening of our 7th grade. Mr. Allen asked what the cost would be of moving up one year on the construction. Mr. Bois replied the maintenance cost of Jordan Small. Mr. Southwick asked about the water quantity problem. Mr. Bois said that with caution there is no problem now but that valves have had to be cleaned out. He said this would be looked at during the rehab of Jordan Small. He added that some of the access ramps would have to be done this summer in order to accommodate new students. This was planned as part of the rehab but will have to be done now. He added that this budget is status quo with no real additions. Mr. Bartholomew asked if the Special Education had more students or was just added services to the children we now have. Mr. Bois replied both and that outside placement is expensive. Mr. Hamilton asked for a list of positions and their salaries. Mr. Bois handed a list and said the average increase was \$900 which was the step increase plus a percentage of about 3%. Mrs. Brown asked if these salaries were comparable with other towns. Mr. Bois replied yes but that Raymond is competitive. He continued that our students are going to 14 different schools which includes our Special Ed children and the majority of the middle school and high school children go to the Windham schools.

VOTE: It was decided to table this vote until January 26, 1998 at 7:00 pm at the Town Office.

MOTION: Royce Moore motioned to table the fire truck vote until next Monday. Seconded by Louise Lester.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Hamilton felt that this vote was discriminatory. Mr. Poore said that the first vote was null because of the article not being prepared and that a vote isn't necessary at this time.

MOTION SECOND WITHDRAWN: Louise Lester withdrew her motion.

TABLE: Rolf Olsen tabled the vote until January 26, 1998.

MOTION: Jane Jordan motioned to vote tonight. No. second.

5. Town Budget.

#0100 Administration

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: Carried.

#0125 Assessing

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: Carried.

#0200 Town Office

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: Carried.

#0400 Insurance

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: Carried.

#0500 General Assistance

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: Carried.

#0550 Cable Broadcasting and Administration

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: Carried.

#0575 Community Development and Services

MOTION: Phil Hamilton motioned to exclude #0575 from the budget. No second.

MOTION: Phil Hamilton motioned to approve minus the \$13,000 for sub-account #0200 Regional Economic Development Director. There was a second.

VOTE: Carried.

#0600 Fire Department

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: 7 in favor (Jordan, Olsen, Bartholomew, Williams, Moore, Lester, Murray) 1 in opposition (Hamilton)

#0650 Dispatch

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: Carried.

#0700 Emergency Management Agency

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: Carried.

#0750 Animal Control

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: Carried.

#0775 Street Lights

VOTE: 7 in favor (Hamilton, Bartholomew, Jordan, Olsen, Moore, Murray, Williams)

1 opposed (Lester)

#0800 Public Works

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: Carried.

#0900 Solid Waste

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: Carried.

#1200 Cemeteries

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: Carried.

#1250 Parks

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: Carried.

#1300 Unclassified

MOTION OF SELECTMEN: Ernest Allen motioned to reduce the amount given Tri-county Mental Health to \$1000 and Southern Maine Agency on Aging to \$750.

Seconded.

VOTE OF SELECTMEN: Carried.

MOTION OF BUDGET COMMITTEE: there was a motion and second to reduce the amount given Tri-county Mental Health to \$1000 and Southern Maine Agency on Aging to \$750. Seconded.

VOTE: Carried.

#1400 County Tax

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: Carried.

#1500 Capital Improvements

MOTION: There was a motion and second to approve.

VOTE: Carried.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Olsen felt that there should be a dinner or some recognition of people who helped in the recent storm crisis. Mrs. McDermott felt that something could be done.

MOTION: There was a motion and second to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT: Stephanie Bubier adjourned the meeting at 10:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise H. Lester
Acting Secretary