

## TOWN OF RAYMOND BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rolf Olsen Louise Murray Howard Williams Jane Jordan Neil Southwick Phil Hamilton Ralph Bartholomew Louise Lester

### MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 1999

ATTENDANCE: Rolf Olsen, Chairman; Jane Jordan; Phil Hamilton; Howard Williams; Louise Murray; Ralph Bartholomew; Louise Lester; Neil Southwick; David Bois, Superintendent; Norma Richard, Principal; Meg Waters, Special Education; Karl Geib, School Committee; Frank McDermott, School Committee; Betty McDermott, Selectman; and Nathan Poore, Town Manager.

CALL TO ORDER: Rolf Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm at the Town Hall.

Approve minutes of previous meetings.

a. December 14, 1998

MOTION: Neil Southwick motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Jane Jordan.

VOTE: Carried.

2. 1998-1999 School Budget Review.

DISCUSSION:

Teacher salaries are the same level as last year but negotiations are going to mediation for the next contract which will begin September 1999. Staff will get a cost of living increase of 3%.

Debt service circuit breaker now at \$175,000 which now pays 32% of the total amount. Mr. Bois said that with the Town's increase in valuation this will be changing in the future.

Mr. Bois reminded the Committee that his projections for the next year are being made with less than a quarter of the current year gone.

Mr. Southwick asked the situation with the water well. Mr. Bois said there have been no changes and so far it is performing adequately. He said the new middle school will demand a new well to supplement the old well. Mr. Southwick felt it should be done now. Mr. Bois felt that might be possible but said there is no power for a pump for emergency services like the Ice Storm. Mr. Poore suggested they might borrow from the \$225,000 already being held for the new school and at the end of the year have the Town repay whatever amount had to be taken out of surplus. He said he was currently talking with generator companies about having an emergency generator on stand-by. Jordan Small School would have to be retrofitted with electrical connection for it. He also felt that a separate article could be included in the Town Warrant to cover the expense of purchasing an emergency generator.

Computers were discussed and Ms. Richard said that the Jordan Small computers would be moved to the new elementary school and the middle school would be getting some new ones for what they needed.

School population seems to be staying at the present level. The last large class to go into middle school has matriculated. K-6 is 453 children and they have planned for capacity of 450 to 465. Ms. Richard said 1997-98 had 477 students.

Mr. Williams asked if our students will be welcomed at the new Poland school. Mr. Bois answered that they will, however, Westbrook remains Raymond's contract school. He continued that Windham will take one more seventh grade class and allow that class to finish at Windham.

Mr. Bartholomew asked about personnel increases. Mr. Bois said the assistant bookkeeper will be adding 5 hours per week and Paul Godwin will not be driving a bus route so that will require a replacement, there will be 1 aide in the regular elementary, 1 aide in special ed, and 1 speech therapist. Mr. Bois said there are 29.3 teachers with 10 at the top of the scale and 6 in the top 3 scale; there is 1 in step 3 and 1 in step 4 at the lower end of the scale. Mr. Hamilton felt there was a question of the school hiring employees which have not been budgeted for. Mr. Bois replied that the School Committee must cover all positions new or otherwise and they try to stay within the budget. If they cannot than they must come back to the Town for more money.

Meg Waters reported that there are 62 children in special ed at Jordan Small and 44 children in outside programs including junior and senior high school. She said the tuition is increased for special ed students by \$316.00 a year. There are also 2 full time aides for 2 special ed students.

MOTION: Neil Southwick motioned to accept the School Budget as printed. Seconded by Howard Williams

AMENDMENT: Phil Hamilton amended the motion to table. Seconded by Ralph Bartholomew.

VOTE: 4 in favor (Hamilton, Bartholomew, Lester, Olsen) 3 against (Murray, Southwick, Williams) 1 abstention (Jordan)

MOTION: Neil Southwick motioned to recommend not raising funds under Option 1. Seconded by Howard Williams.

Option 1: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$225,000 from undesignated surplus fund to a designated account that will be used for future Jordan Small School renovations.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Howard Williams motioned to recommend Option 2. The Budget Committee recommends \$225,000. Seconded by Neil Southwick.

Option 2: To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for future construction of the Jordan Small School renovation project, such project approved by a referendum vote on November 4, 1997 with construction scheduled to begin in or around the year 2001 and such funds to be reserved in a separate account.

VOTE: Unanimous.

3. Review and possible vote on the proposed Municipal Budget.

MOTION: Howard Williams motioned to take the Municipal budget as a block with a value of \$2,336,149.00. Seconded by Jane Jordan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

4. Other Business and Communications.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Hamilton asked that a letter be sent to the Selectmen recommending that there be a purchase of an emergency generator for Jordan Small School. Mr. Poore said he would have some numbers available at the next meeting.

MOTION: Louise Lester motioned to adjourn. No second.

MOTION: Neil Southwick motioned to recommend the TIF budget in the amount of \$70,300. Seconded by Jane Jordan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, January 20, 1999 at 7:00 pm.

MOTION: Phil Hamilton motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Howard Williams.

ADJOURNMENT: Rolf Olsen adjourned the meeting at 10:15 pm.