

TOWN OF RAYMOND BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rolf Olsen Louise Murray Ernie Allen Robert Jones Jane Jordan Coleen Laprise Ralph Bartholomew Stephanie Bubier Wayne Holmquist

Minutes

Wednesday, November 20, 2002

Attendance: Rolf Olsen, Chairman; Jane Jordan; Ernest Allen; Robert Jones; Louise Murray; Wayne Holmquist; Stephanie Bubier; Ralph Bartholomew; Coleen Laprise; Ada Brown, Chairman of the Selectmen; Betty McDermott; Charles Leavitt; Dana Desjardins; Christine McClellan; Elizabeth Cummings, Finance Director; and Don Willard, Town Manager.

Open Meeting: Rolf Olsen opened the meeting at 7:33 pm at the Town Office.

1. Consideration of a warrant article for the Special Town Meeting.

"Article 2: To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appropriate from Municipal Fund Balance (undesignated surplus) to provide 85% family health care insurance coverage to Raymond's eligible full-time municipal employees through the remainder of the 2002-2003 fiscal year. Program participation guidelines are outlined in the Revision to the Town of Raymond, Maine Personnel Policy dated December 3, 2002. Amount requested \$18,915.

MOTION: Jane Jordan motioned to recommend this article. Seconded by Louise Murray.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Holmquist asked if this benefit would change Raymond's pay scale by increasing the total amount given one employee over another. Mr. Willard answered saying that at this time only one person qualified for the benefit but by July 1, 2003 the anniversary date of the policy there might be four other employees who can participate. Mrs. Bubier asked if it might be more feasible for several local towns to join in a group. Mrs. Cummings said that both MMA and MSMA were large groups which had a better chance of getting a better cost for us than a smaller group of local towns. We would also have to persuade those towns to join the group. Mr. Bartholomew questioned using an emergency meeting to raise these funds. He felt that this benefit package was very generous and more than the local business world offers. Mr. Olsen also had a problem dealing with this as an emergency commitment because it will affect the Town in the future. He would like to see a cap put on the cash benefit offered. Mr. Leavitt agreed and thought that could be looked into and dealt with through the personnel policy.

VOTE: Carried.

2. Discussion on purchase of 51 Main Street.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard explained that a Budget/Finance Committee recommendation on this proposed purchase for a possible special town meeting would be contingent upon the owner accepting the Town's purchase offer. There is no action needed tonight. Mr. Olsen didn't feel that the lot was worth \$80,000 in that the Town has no need for the building and it represents an empty lot for our usage. Mrs. McClellan felt that because of its location on the corner and being adjacent to the library property it has value to the Town and it will pay for itself in improving the Village area. Mr. Willard noted that more investigation was needed before any purchase, and the Selectmen will be looking at other property possibilities in the area. Mr. Holmquist felt that an option should be obtained and possibly purchased understanding that resale would probably bring the same amount of value but probably not more. Mr. Allen didn't feel that more room was needed at this time in the town office since dispatch would be moving out leaving their office for expansion. Mr. Willard noted that planning and construction could take years to complete and by then space will again be at a minimum. The library has space problems now. Mr. Leavitt felt voter input and further study was needed.

ADJOURNED: Rolf Olsen adjourned the meeting at 8:26 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk