

TOWN OF RAYMOND
401 Webbs Mills Road
Raymond, Maine 04071

BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Tuesday, January 28, 2008

ATTENDANCE: Rolf Olsen; Ralph Bartholomew; Dennis Cole; Jean Carter; Bob Gosselin; Susan Accardi; Charles Leavitt; Marshall Bullock; and Jerilyn Ward (7:04 pm).

BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE ABSENT: None

SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Teresa Sadak, Chairman

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT: Kevin Woodbrey, Roger Ginn, Lisa Friedlander, and Wendy Trask.

STAFF ATTENDANCE: None.

OTHERS: Dana Desjardins, Selectman.

1. Call to order. Rolf Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm at the Broadcast Studio.
2. Approval of the Minutes of January 17, 2008.

NOTE: Mr. Leavitt asked that the minutes be corrected as "Mrs." Accardi should be "Ms.".

MOTION: Jean Carter motioned to approve the Minutes of January 17, 2008 as amended.
Seconded by Dennis Cole.

VOTE: Unanimous 8-0

3. Special Town Meeting Warrant for February 5, 2008.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bartholomew asked whether there are two undesignated fund balances. Mr. Olsen replied yes the municipal and the school when the school has held an amount for two years it goes into the town undesignated fund balance. Mrs. Sadak thought that most of this undesignated fund balance was left over from last year which was about \$153,000. It was stated that this reduction would draw down the school's undesignated fund balance so that there won't be funding to offset the school's budget for next year. Mr. Bartholomew asked if this expense could be added to the new budget for 2008-2009. Mr. Olsen replied yes. Mr. Leavitt noted that the school's undesignated fund balance has to be used for school purposes until it's absorbed into the town's undesignated fund balance.

Mrs. Sadak thought that the work would be done this late winter or early spring. Mr. Gosselin asked how much was allocated for this work in this year's budget and how much has been used. Mr. Olsen said it would be in the Operation Maintenance Budget. Mr. Leavitt said that there is \$30,000 in the school contingency. The \$8,000 for engineering came from the Operation Maintenance Budget. There was discussion about whether the contingency has been earmarked

for this effort along with the \$145,000. Mr. Olsen felt the warrant article was to pay for the work and to leave the Contingency unencumbered.

Mrs. Carter questioned if this isn't a real danger to the children why are we doing the work especially if there are rooms not being used which might afford better air quality. She didn't see an emergency situation especially when we don't know what will be happening with school consolidation. She asked that this be tabled. Mr. Olsen said that the town meeting has been called and the Budget Committee was called upon to make their recommendation. Mrs. Carter then asked that the Budget Committee not support this article. Mr. Bartholomew asked if there has been a legal opinion as to whether this air quality issue is a legal question. Mrs. Sadak replied that she wasn't aware of a legal opinion but said that parents want something done and she agreed that the air quality should be corrected. Mr. Gosselin remembered that this issue was a complaint in 2005 and testing began in 2006. Mr. Desjardins added that the bid might come in over the \$145,000. Mrs. Ward noted that the report which said that the building was underutilized didn't mean that there were empty rooms. Mr. Olsen added that it meant that the population was below the highest population allowed per square foot.

Mr. Bartholomew asked about grant funding for this project. Mrs. Sadak said that she hasn't heard anything as yet. Mr. Bartholomew would like that explored before the town spent this money. Mr. Desjardins said that the Selectmen were in favor of this work but two of them were concerned that the money was being raised before the bids came in. The Selectmen didn't make a stand on a recommendation. Mrs. Ward agreed saying that she would have like to see the accepted bid prior to establishing an amount to bring to a town meeting. Mr. Bartholomew concurred.

Mr. Gosselin understood that if we become consolidated then the undesignated fund balance would go to the consolidation. If we use it now on our building, we will know where it went and are bringing a safe building to the consolidation. Mr. Bartholomew noted that there was 15 months before we would be consolidated. Mr. Olsen answered that if the bid(s) come in above \$145,000 then they wouldn't be able to go forward without further funding. Mr. Leavitt felt that the whole Budget/Finance Committee would not have a problem with this work if there were a real health danger in the school. He felt that this has been an ongoing concern to the school, and they're now asking to have it resolved. He would like to have it go out to bid before the funds are raised. He also felt that it would be cost effective to have the work done when the school can be shut down for the renovation instead of having it done piece meal after school hours and weekends.

MOTION: Jean Carter motioned that the Budget/Finance Committee not recommend the article. Seconded by Ralph Bartholomew.

VOTE: 7 (Bullock, Bartholomew, Ward, Carter, Leavitt, Cole, Accardi) 1 opposed (Gosselin)
The chairman didn't vote.

ADJOURNED: Rolf Olsen adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk