

Town of Raymond

BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Broadcast Studio
423 Webbs Mills Road

Monday, April 22, 2013

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Budget/Finance Committee: Rolf Olsen, Chairman; Steve Linne; Dana Desjardins; Peter Dunn; Bob Gosselin; Marshall Bullock; Tacy Hartley; and Steve Crockett.

ABSENT: Brian Walker

Selectmen present: Sam Gifford, Chairman; Mike Reynolds and Joe Bruno.

Also: Don Willard, Town Manager; Nathan White, Public Works Director; Bruce Tupper, Fire Chief; Cathy Gosselin, EMS Director; and Chris Hanson, Code Enforcement Officer.

1. Call to order. Rolf Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Minutes

February 25, 2013

MOTION: Marshall Bullock motion to approve the minutes of 2/25/13 as written. Seconded by Peter Dunn.

VOTE: Carried

February 26, 2013 Tabled until the next meeting.

March 25, 2013

MOTION: Steve Linne motioned to approve the minutes of 3/25/13 as written. Seconded by Marshall Bullock.

VOTE: Carried

3. Vote recommendations on the 2013-2014 Municipal Budget.

ARTICLE 11

MOTION: Marshall Bullock motion to recommend Article 11. Seconded by Peter Dunn.

DISCUSSION: Desjardins wanted to have a copy of the minutes from the Selectmen's meeting to know how they voted. Mr. Olsen replied that it was 4-0 on all of the articles. Mr. Desjardins felt that one Selectmen should have recused himself from the vote because he has a vested interest in the budget. Mr. Desjardins felt that the Budget committee should have had the minutes from the Selectmen's meeting. He had concern about the nights the meetings are held when not everyone can attend.

VOTE: Carried

Mr. Bruno felt that Article 10 should be voted on by the Budget Committee because it was integral to the budget.

ARTICLE 10

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motion to recommend Article 10. Seconded by Peter Dunn.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bullock asked who drafted the document. Mr. Bruno said the attorneys of both parties. Mr. Desjardins asked if a person recommends this article does it mean that they are in favor of it. Mr. Olsen replied no it doesn't.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 12

MOTION: Peter Dunn motioned to recommend Article 12. Seconded by Steve Crockett.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Desjardins asked if the interest rate on overdue taxes could be lower than the state amount because of the current financial atmosphere.

AMENDMENT: Dana Desjardins motioned to amend the motion to change the interest rate to 4%. Seconded by Steve Linne.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Dunn felt this was not a good way to save the taxpayers money. He felt the vote on the school budget was the best way. Mr. Dunn said that if this budget passes it will be the 7th year there isn't an increase in the mil rate. Mr. Willard noted that the mil rate is directly connected to the LD1 amount.

AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN: Mr. Desjardins withdrew his amendment. Mr. Linne agreed.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: Carried

ARTICLE 13

MOTION: Marshall Bullock motioned to recommend Article 13. Seconded by Bob Gosselin.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 14

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to recommend Article 14. Seconded by Steve Linne.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 15

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend Article 15 not to exceed \$75,000. Seconded by Marshall Bullock.

AMENDMENT: Mr. Desjardins felt that it should be amended to \$85,000. No second

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 16

MOTION: Peter Dunn motioned to recommend Article 16. Seconded by Steve Crockett.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bullock asked if there was a cap on this request to transfer funds. Mr. Olsen replied no, but the total approved town budget amount cannot be exceeded.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 17

MOTION: Peter Dunn motioned to recommend Article 17. Seconded by Dana Desjardins. Marshall Bullock recused himself because he believed he had a vested interest.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 18

MOTION: Peter Dunn motioned to recommend Article 18. Seconded by Bob Gosselin.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Desjardins asked if there was a discount for taxpayers if they paid their taxes early. Mr. Willard replied no because an amount for the discounts would have to be raised in that year's budget.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 19

MOTION: Marshall Bullock motioned to recommend Article 19. Seconded by Bob Gosselin.

AMENDMENT: Mr. Desjardins asked to change the amount for Raymond Waterways to \$25,000. Mr. Olsen noted that would bring the total to \$196,432.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Linne asked what has been moved into the TIF account. Mr. Olsen said that the total budget won't be changed because of that alteration. The GIS was moved back into the TIF. Mr. Olsen explained that it was an accounting move which didn't effect the total budget. Mr. Gosselin said that he didn't see what the dollar assets were for Raymond Waterways. Mr. Bruno offered it was \$30,000. Mr. Desjardins asked if Mr. Gosselin was an employee of Raymond Waterways. Mr. Gosselin replied no.

AMENDMENT: Defeated.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Dunn asked if we're near the maximum in the TIF. Mr. Olsen replied under by \$5,000. Mr. Linne asked what services do we get for our \$20,000 for GIS. He had concern that GIS also appeared in the Technology budget request.

AMENDMENT: Mr. Linne motioned to reduce the GIS budget by \$10,000. Mr. Olsen noted that it would reduce that total to \$188,932. Dana Desjardins seconded.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gosselin wanted to know what that cut will delete. Mr. Willard said he couldn't say for sure but that it would be a mistake to cut the GIS budget. Mr. Desjardins felt there was more money for GIS later in the budget under Technology.

AMENDMENT VOTE: Defeated

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: Carried

ARTICLE 20

MOTION: Peter Dunn motioned to recommend Article 20. Seconded by Marshall Bullock.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Linne felt that the vote for a 2% pay raise was a tie vote and should have been in the budget for 1 ½%. Mr. Olsen said that the Selectmen wanted 2%.

AMENDMENT: Dana Desjardins motioned to amend the pay raise to 1 ½ % which would reduce the budget by \$14,000. No second.

AMENDMENT WITHDRAWAL: Dana Desjardins withdrew his amendment but wanted to have that option in future budget talks.

VOTE: Carried.

ARTICLE 21

MOTION: Peter Dunn motioned to recommend Article 21. Seconded by Bob Gosselin.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 22

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend Article 22. Seconded by Peter Dunn.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 23

MOTION: Steve Crockett motioned to recommend Article 23. Seconded by Peter Dunn.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 24

MOTION: Steve Crockett motioned to recommend Article 24. Seconded by Peter Dunn.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Desjardins asked if it was enough to cover General Assistance. Mr. Bruno said that we get reimbursed 50% from the state so this amount is equal to \$12,000. Mr. Willard explained how the Raymond Community Assistance account was used.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 25

MOTION: Peter Dunn motioned to recommend Article 25. Seconded by Marshall Bullock.

AMENDMENT: Mr. Desjardins motioned to amend Article 25 reducing by \$20,000. Seconded by Steve Linne. Mr. Olsen noted that this would bring the total for the Article to \$138,489.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Desjardins wanted to see the GIS funding in one article. Mr. Olsen said one amount was for the labor part and this was for the software expense. Mr. Bullock asked if it was the entire budget amount. Mr. Desjardins thought it was just for GIS. Mr. Olsen said that it would have to come out of the total Technology Account.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Defeated

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: Carried

ARTICLE 26

MOTION: Peter Dunn motioned to recommend Article 26. Seconded by Marshall Bullock.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Linne asked what else was moved into the TIF. He didn't think that the numbers matched. Mr. Olsen said it was the GPCOG membership dues and the GIS. Mr. Desjardins asked if these could be listed in the final warrant. It was noted that there is a spreadsheet published in the warrant with the associated articles posted.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 27

MOTION: Peter Dunn motioned to recommend Article 27. Seconded by Marshall Bullock.

NOTE: Mr. Gosselin recused himself from this article as he is a member of the Fire Department..

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 28

MOTION: Peter Dunn motioned to recommend Article 28. Seconded by Marshall Bullock.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Desjardins asked how many Animal Control Officers we have. Mr. Willard answered 2 and have mutual aide from other communities.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 29

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend Article 29. Seconded by Peter Dunn.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 30

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend Article 30. Seconded by Peter Dunn.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Linne asked about the snow plowing contract. Mr. Olsen said they had the original contract which has been extended. Mr. White said it has been renegotiated twice. Mr. Linne asked about having an even budgeted amount over the 3 years instead of the 0-5-0 arrangement. Mr. White said it could be discussed with PK Sand & Gravel. Mr. Desjardins felt it should be put to bid. Mr. White said that the last time they went to bid PK was the only bidder.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 31

MOTION: Peter Dunn motioned to recommend Article 31. Seconded by Bob Gosselin.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 32

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend Article 32. Seconded by Marshall Bullock

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 33

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend Article 33. Seconded by Marshall Bullock.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Desjardins thought that baseball and soccer was funded from the Luther Gulick Fund but it is in this article. Mr. Olsen informed them that the Luther Gulick Fund amount was listed in the income side. Mr. Linne asked why some items were being noted in the article. Mr. Willard replied that some items have always been mentioned and no one has asked to have any eliminated. The format could be changed for another year. Mr. Gosselin felt that it was for information to the voter. Mr. Desjardins said that he would like to know how much money these recreational groups have.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 34

MOTION: Peter Dunn motioned to recommend Article 34. Seconded by Bob Gosselin.
VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 35

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend Article 35. Seconded by Peter Dunn.
VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 36

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend Article 36. Seconded by Peter Dunn.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gosselin asked how the amount came about. Mr. Olsen said that there was money being used from the proposed sale of the cell tower easement. Mr. Linne asked what had changed. Mr. Bruno said there was \$10,000 taken out for the public works truck and an ambulance. Mr. Desjardins asked about money for land for a communications tower. Chief Tupper said that it now was not being pursued, but they are still looking forward to that possibility. Mr. Desjardins asked why a new ambulance is being considered. Chief Tupper said that one is quite new and the other approaching the 10 year mark which is a good time for a trade-in to get the highest value on it.

VOTE: Carried.

ARTICLE 37

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend Article 37. Seconded by Peter Dunn.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard said that they met with Cumberland County Police Chief Joyce and wanted to encourage a bigger presence in Raymond by his department. The Chief said that they were very happy with Raymond.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 38

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend Article 38. Seconded by Peter Dunn.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bullock asked how this amount came about. Mr. Bruno explained the process. Mr. Linne felt it would be prudent to explain where the rest of the cell tower sale money was going i.e. undesignated fund balance. Mr. Dunn thought that the idea was not to lower the tax rate with this money. Mr. Reynolds said that this funding would be available if needed if the state doesn't support the towns. We still don't know what the state will do. Mr. Bruno said that this may be needed if the state revenue sharing is reduced.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 39

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend Article 39. Seconded by Marshall Bullock.
VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 40

MOTION: Peter Dunn motioned to recommend Article 40. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Desjardins wanted to know what properties are no longer in Tree Growth. He wanted to know how much the Conservation Commission received this year. Mr. Bruno said they received \$15,000 last year. Mr. Reynolds noted that Conservation only got the money from the sale of land or an owner taking their

land out of Tree Growth. He noted that some landowners haven't provided our Assessing Office with their 10 year plan and they are on the verge of having their land taken out of Tree Growth through due process. Mr. Desjardins would like to know the Conservation Commission's total fund at this time and what their plans are for using it. Mr. Bruno thought they had about \$30,000. Mr. Olsen added that they have to have town meeting approval to use the money.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 41

MOTION: Bob Gosselin motioned to recommend Article 41. Seconded by Peter Dunn.

VOTE: Carried

ARTICLE 42

MOTION: Marshall Bullock motioned to recommend Article 42. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

AMENDMENT: Steve Linne amended the motion to replace "to increase" with "to exceed". Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Linne felt that we were building in a \$705,000 increase to our LD1 amount. He wanted to make it a one-time expenditure. Mr. Bruno said it really didn't matter because you would still have to budget that way. Mr. Linne felt they should use exceed to keep the limit where it is. Mr. Olsen said that the recommendation would say "exceed" if passed.

AMENDMENT VOTE: Defeated

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bullock asked if this motion was intended to make no recommendation and if it didn't pass would that require a new motion and vote. Mr. Bruno said that if that happened then we would go back to the total budget and take out the \$705,000 in Article 38. Mr. Linne didn't want to recommend this article.

AMENDMENT: Steve Linne motioned to not recommend Article 42. Mr. Olsen said that they couldn't because that would be the reverse of the original motion. No second.

AMENDMENT: Steve Crockett amendment the motion to make no recommendation. Seconded by Bob Gosselin,

AMENDMENT VOTE: Carried.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Crockett believed that the cell tower easement will pass and this Article will pass at town meeting.

AMENDMENT VOTE: Motion to make no recommendation. Carried.

ARTICLE 43

MOTION: Peter Dunn motioned to recommend Article 43. Seconded by Steve Linne.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bullock asked if the bonding agent was in favor of our CIP changes. Mr. Bruno said that the town was in a very good financial status. Mr. Crockett stated that the \$220,000 would be spread over the next 10 years along with the original \$2,000,000 of the bond. Mr. Bruno noted that Raymond has 3 old bonds which will be retired in the next 3 years and this loss of expenditure will support this new bond. Mr. Desjardins asked what work would be done on which roads. Mr. Olsen said that the Road Study Committee has studied what work should be done and it will be done according to the plan.

VOTE: Carried

NEXT MEETING: Mr. Olsen wanted to set a date in June to meet after town meeting. Mr. Desjardins asked if they could have input on the RSU #14 budget. He would like to make a recommendation on their budget. Mr. Olsen said that the Legislature with the RSU law didn't provide for that opinion. Mrs. Sadak said that the RSU #14 budget would be next Wednesday. Mr. Desjardins felt that the Budget Committee should have an opinion on record. Mr. Dunn would like to see the estimated final 2013-2014 tax rate with all budgets considered. Mr. Olsen wanted to set the tone of the next budget year at this meeting. Mr. Linne didn't feel that he was prepared to review and make a decision on the RSU budget at this time. Mr. Bruno noted that our School Board members were there to represent Raymond.

MOTION: Steve Crockett motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Dana Desjardins

ADJOURNMENT: Rolf Olsen adjourned the meeting at 9:06 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk