



Budget-Finance Committee Meeting Agenda

April 30, 2019

6:30pm

Broadcast Studio
423 Webbs Mills Road

Resolution: We, the Raymond Board of Selectmen, recognize our individual and collective responsibilities as leaders and representatives of our community. To this end, we pledge to conduct ourselves in a manner befitting these roles and duties. We pledge and encourage others to "Be the Influence" and to recognize that decisions matter.

Committee Members Present: Robert Gosselin, Diana Picavet, Sheila Bourque, Crystal Rogers, Brian Walker, Kevin Oliver, Barry Moores, Dana DesJardins

Committee Members Absent: none

Town Staff Present:

Don Willard – Town Manager
Cathy Ricker – Finance Director
Sue Look – Town Clerk

1) **Called Meeting to order** at 6:30pm by Chairman Gosselin

2) **Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting** – March 26, 2019

Motion to approve as presented by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Mr Walker.

Ms Bourque – I would like to thank Sue for all the work she has to put in for those minutes.

Mr Walker – Seconded on that as well.

Mr DesJardins – I will have to recuse myself as I was not here.

Voted 7-0-1. Motion carried.

Chair Gosselin – Before we begin reviewing the warrant there is a comment from Ms Bourque.

Ms Bourque – Thank you Mr Chairman. I have 2 items I would like to bring up. I think you saw that there were 2 emails that were shared amongst all members of both committees. I made a comment I don't believe it was a technical open meetings violation. It was not an accusation, but I feel that it since both committees were copied on my response I apologize. It was certainly a violation in spirit. I am not going to read all of that now since we are all aware of what was in those emails, but I do ask Mr Chairman to forward both emails to Sue to be included in the public record. That way everyone will have access to the information, and it included information on undecided issues. I feel that it is important that it be part of the public record.

Chair Gosselin – Any communications we do as a part of email are already public record.

Town Clerk Look – Mr Chairman, is there any action you want me to take to including the emails as a part of the minutes, or simply leave it that emails are a part of public record?

Chair Gosselin – Only the latter of the 2.

Ms Bourque – The second item I wanted to bring up is that there have been vigorous discussions about how warrants are written. Unfortunately, we are not getting a response in a timely manner regarding some of the representations made at prior public meetings by the Select Board, regarding the legality, regarding what is covered in statute about how warrants are presented. I think that the manner in which this committee votes is of critical importance. I will readily admit that this committee has no authority to add a warrant (*article*) or change a warrant (*article*). Never been a debate about that. The concept of adding incremental warrants (*articles*) or an additional closed or capped warrant (*article*) I believe is totally in the discretion of the Select Board. That has yet to be established definitively. Part of my approach to this has been open public discussion. How a vote goes is how a vote goes, we all accept that. However, unfortunately, the average town resident does not pay attention to all of these meetings, doesn't read our minutes, doesn't know all of the background before something appears on the Town Warrant. The suggestion for example in one of our conversations with the Select Board was that if town residents supported the Library, they would give it more money. I do not think it is that the town residents don't support the Library. They would have no idea of the discussion that transpired prior to Town Meeting. All they are going to see is the *figure in the warrant article* and really not be aware what happened in the background. I absolutely agree that it is really up to them to find this out. They can go look, they can do this, they can do that. That is absolutely true, but I am saying that as a public official I feel it is my responsibility to make this information and the issues before the town as publicly accessible as possible, and that means at the Annual Town Meeting. So, what I am asking you to consider is that I know we can only recommend or not recommend *the budget related warrant articles*, so Yay, Nay, or Abstain. I think no matter what amount of money has been put in the budget, we all want to make sure those departments get that money. So, voting against something is probably not in the best interest. However, how do we get discussion going at Town Meeting? My proposal is that if we had an affirmative vote of 1, no names, and everyone else abstained on occasional warrant (*articles*) it would generate questions at Town Meeting where additional information could be brought before the town. I only offer that as a consideration. I have not seen where they have been not recommended across the board, maybe the occasional disagree vote. I am suggesting a different way to accomplish the same end result. It goes to the Town Meeting as recommended, but might generate some questions. I would just like to open that up for conversation. I have no idea how most of you will vote on any of these. Tonight is that discussion. Even if the Select Board allowed an incremental warrant there is no guarantee when it goes to the voters. I am searching for a way to at least raise some of the issues. Maybe we can't do it, we don't want to do it, and that is a longer term view that needs to be worked on.

Chair Gosselin – We are on the Select Board's slate to discuss our request.

Ms Bourque – Instead of the common approach which is to get an answer from the Town Manager, we are going to have a Select Board meeting about our request to get a review of the warrant process which is a whole new experience here. I put that on the table. I don't know if there will be any discussion or if anyone wants to get involved in it.

Mr Walker – First of all, we probably agree with 95% of the budget. There are a very few things where we are out of alignment. Part of what I understand the Budget-Finance Committee to be is a check and balance, and a second set of eyes/ears and perspective.

To me the thing that is interesting is the tenor of places where we seem to have differences of opinion. It has been described as “hot button issues” and “personal” and some of those things. I don’t think they are, but we have a difference of opinion. I think communities thrive on having various opinions and discussions about it. I am all in favor of making sure that the town’s people who may not be as engaged as we all are have an opportunity to understand some of the discussions. This year there will not be any ability to do anything about increasing an amount if they want to because they are closed warrants (*articles*). In the future I think it is probably valuable for the small amount of the cost of getting a legal opinion. To the best of my knowledge right now, after doing the research, that there were some inaccurate statements made by some of the Select Board members about what is legal and what is not. Therefore, I think it is probably valuable to get clarification.

Mr DesJardins – I just want to let the people out there know that we are elected officials. We are a committee. We don’t meet unless we have a quorum. For another elected board to tell an elected board what and what not to do... I can’t see why we can’t make a presentation of different amounts in the spending and keep it close. I totally agree with what Sheila did and said. I have pretty much stayed out of it. I am going to be right up front, I am going to vote not to recommend from article 8 to article 42. I will explain myself at Town Meeting in an open forum where our Chairman of the Select Board wants it to happen. That is what I am doing tonight.

Mrs Picavet – Will Dana have the right to explain at Town Meeting?

Mr DesJardins – It is an open Town Meeting.

Mrs Picavet – But as a Board member?

Mr DesJardins – As a citizen of the Town of Raymond ...

Mrs Picavet – Is that opportunity granted for every warrant (*article*)?

Mr DesJardins – I hope so.

Ms Bourque – The only place I have seen it specifically prohibited is by members of the Select Board. They can not get up as a resident because it is their warrant. It is not our warrant, it is the Select Board’s warrant. Our presence at Town Meeting is to get questions answered if asked.

Mr DesJardins – I agree with a lot of the articles, I would pass them, but if we do not have a say as a board to add a little bit here and there, we can always subtract. I want to make sure this board stays whole. We are dwindling in numbers, no one wants to do this job anymore. That is how I feel. We have to fight for our rights.

Ms Bourque – I believe, Diane, that we do have that ability. The question becomes the Moderator and how they are going to handle things. I don’t know exactly what to do about that. If you look at all of the published guidance on this that is one thing and it should be perfectly allowable. There is no statute that prohibits it. But that doesn’t seem to be everything that we look at. I don’t know if that can be clarified prior to the meeting. Why are we sitting up there? What is the purpose? I guess just to answer questions, but ...

Mrs Picavet – I just think it is not going to happen. I don’t see us being able to speak.

Mr DesJardins – They can’t stop us from talking at a meeting.

Chair Gosselin – Don, do you have any guidance? I know you would like to stay out of this.

Town Manager Willard – The Board of Selectmen have decided to make this an agenda

item and that is where it should stay.

Ms Bourque – For the legal thing, but how about the Moderator and allowing us to speak?

Town Manager Willard – I think that generally speaking you are able to express your opinions at Town Meeting as Dana has indicated. It does have to pertain to the article under discussion. Parliamentary procedure needs to be adhered to. The Moderator has broad latitude to allow or disallow speech, depending on if it is pertinent and related. Generally speaking, if it is related to the article and you are a citizen it is permissible.

Ms Bourque – I don't see any reason, Dana, that you can't stand up from your seat and go to the podium.

Mr DesJardins – I don't have a problem with that. Sheila, the Moderator is elected by the people at Town Meeting, not by the Selectmen or the Budget Committee. They are voted in, so it all depends on who you want as Moderator.

Ms Bourque – I think that is pretty well decided before we get there.

Mr DesJardins – It is, but we can vote it down too.

Town Clerk Look – Mr Chairman, in the ordinance for the Budget-Finance Committee there is:

Section 6. Membership, Quorum, Voting

*E. The Budget and Finance Committee shall officially act only in the presence of a quorum of four (4) voting members. **Official motions will pass only on a majority vote of all voting members of the Budget and Finance Committee, unless the Budget and Finance Committee unanimously votes to adopt other rules at the first meeting of the year after the Annual Meeting and agrees to utilize the revised voting procedure for the full year.** No member of the Budget and Finance Committee shall vote on a budget item in which the member has an interest.*

I went back and looked at the minutes from the first meeting last year and that wasn't voted to be waived. It was mentioned to have 1 person to vote for an article and everyone else abstain. That would mean that the motion failed. You have to have a quorum. You need 5 to pass or it is a fail.

3) Review of FY 2019-2020 Town Meeting Warrant Budget Articles

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of any property acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes pursuant to the policy adopted by the Select Board, as may be amended from time to time, the policy to remain consistent with State statutes and laws. In all cases conveyance to be made by municipal quitclaim deed.

The Select Board recommends Article 8

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 8 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Walker. Seconded by Ms Bourque.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 9: To see what date taxes will be due and to set an interest rate for unpaid amounts.

The Select Board recommends 1st half to be due October 31, 2019 and 2nd half to be due April 30, 2020 with interest at nine percent (**9%**) on any unpaid balances.

The Select Board recommends Article 9

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 9 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Moores. Seconded by Mrs Picavet.

Ms Bourque – This did not come in our other discussions. In my heart I think that people who have to pay this are in a bad road and 9% seems a bit exorbitant to me.

Chair Gosselin – I think in the past we have followed State guidelines on this.

Finance Director Ricker – The State went to 9%. This is the maximum allowed on unpaid taxes.

Ms Bourque – So, we charge the maximum?

Finance Director Ricker – Yes. Most Towns do.

Ms Bourque – Most Towns do a lot of things...

Town Manager Willard – We also pay the maximum on abated taxes. From experience, if you set this rate too low people will game the system. If they can invest their money at a higher rate they will. It may not be possible these days, but in the old days that was the game.

Ms Bourque – Thank you for the clarification.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at nine percent (**9%**) for the fiscal year.

The Select Board recommends Article 10

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 10 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Moores. Seconded by Ms Bourque.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of Town owned personal property with value not to exceed **\$35,000**.

The Select Board recommends Article 11

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 11 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Walker. Seconded by Mr Oliver.

Mr Oliver – What if the amount is over \$35,000?

Chair Gosselin – It goes to Town Meeting.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate from undesignated fund balance (surplus) to meet the unanticipated needs of the community that occur during the fiscal year and/or to adjust the tax rate as the Select Board deem advisable an amount not to exceed **\$75,000**.

The Select Board recommends Article 12

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 12 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mrs Picavet. Seconded by Mr Moores.

Ms Bourque – This one to me I object to because we are saying we have extra money and rather than use that money to reduce the budget increase we are going to use it at our discretion throughout the year however we want. I feel that money should be applied to the current budget and not just kind of used. To me it is like a savings account of extra cash. I understand the intent, but do not support the motion.

Mr Moores – What happens if we have some type of hurricane or some type of disaster. We need to appropriate \$50,000 to rebuild a communication something at the Fire Department (for example) and we don't have the capability of doing it.

Ms Bourque – We can also look at undesignated funds in 3 other places that are also in my opinion discretionary. That is one way to do it. The other way is to properly budget and allocate for disaster relief, put those funds away in a public manner.

Mr Moores – So we take \$75,000 and put it away and do the same thing. We should give the Selectmen the opportunity to make that decision. You just want to take \$75,000 tax dollars and put it aside. This gives the Selectmen the ability to do that.

Ms Bourque – This is taking excess tax dollars that were not spent and setting them aside.

Mr Moores – You are suggesting that we raise \$75,000 in taxes to cover this.

Mr Walker – Two comments on this since we opened this discussion. The fund balance is an important part of how fiscal authorities look at our worthiness for credit. This is one that to have the flexibility that Barry pointed out that the Select Board has is really important. I think

they have shown in the past to be very good stewards of the money and not to be spending it in a casual way. I am in favor.

Mr DesJardins – What if they don't spend the \$75,000? What happens to it?

Chair Gosselin – It stays in undesignated fund balance.

Mr Walker – Over the years, when the fund balance has gotten high and goes beyond what we need to be seen as appropriate, it has been brought down from time to time.

Mr DesJardins – Brian, I was a Selectman for 9 years. It started at \$50,000. If they use it fine, and if not it should be returned into the budget.

Town Manager Willard – I just wanted to point out that it is a rare and extraordinary event that any money at all is used. There has been a little bit more utilization of late, but in my experience several years have gone by with no usage. They are very prudent about that.

Mr Oliver – If it is not used, does it roll over to the next year?

Ms Bourque – You will see 2 warrants (*articles*) where they are doing exactly that.

Approved by a vote of 6-2

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board, for the fiscal year 2019 - 2020, to transfer funds between appropriation accounts as long as the grand total of all appropriations is not exceeded. Any such transfers to be approved only at a properly called public meeting of the Select Board.

The Select Board recommends Article 13

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 13 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Mr Oliver.

Ms Bourque – To me this is how the prior article should be worded. In other words, yes, we will give you discretion, but lets discuss it at a public meeting.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the use of Town employees and/or Town owned equipment or independent contractor(s) hired by the Town for maintenance on private roads in special and certain circumstances where in the public's interest.

Note of explanation – Three examples of when the use of Town employees and equipment may be necessary:

- A. Tying in work done on a public road that intersects a private road;
- B. Plowing snow on a private road to clear the way for emergency response apparatus; and
- C. In rare or emergency situations, maintaining private roads for school bus access to special education students as deemed necessary.

The Select Board recommends Article 14

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 14 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Walker. Seconded by Mr Oliver.

Ms Bourque – In this article we provide an explanation, which is unusual. Usually we don't explain nothing to nobody. Why in this one and not in others? For example, talking about \$75,000 to give people a better understanding of what it is for.

Mr Moores – What happens is if something is not listed in the article and something else happens then someone is going to complain that is was not originally listed in the article so they are against it.

Ms Bourque – I get that. I just find it curious that we say discretion and open it up for complaints in one and not the other.

Mr Walker – I believe this goes back in history, and Don will probably chuckle at this too, to a Town Meeting when this article came up without an explanation. After about a 40 minute discussion I think the Director of Public Works was asked, "How often does this happen?" and he said I don't think we have ever used it. That got it to a vote.

Town Manager Willard – What differentiates this from other articles is the other articles are to benefit the town directly. People understand the money article. When you start talking about putting public equipment for private purposes that is something that people take notice of. I believe this has happened 1 time in my almost 20 years – plowing a very icy road for a special ed student. Very rare.

Mr DesJardins – I have also seen the Public Works guy sand a private road for Fire apparatus.

Town Manager Willard – That does happen from time to time to keep our people safe.

Ms Bourque – I see that this is based on history. That makes sense.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §506, with no interest.

The Select Board recommends Article 15

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 15 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Walker. Seconded by Mrs Picavet.

Ms Bourque – Clarification. With no interest. What you are saying is we will take your money in advance, but we will not pay you interest. I would suggest that that be clarified a little bit because it just dangles out there. First read I said, “Why would you give me interest if I paid you money in advance, and why would you not let the tax collector take money in advance?” It is kind of like a weirdo article. I understand because it is a clarification of the interest, but I don’t think it is very clear.

Mr DesJardins – Some towns give discounts if you prepay or early pay.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$249,497 from the tax increment of the Pipeline/RT 302 Tax Increment Financing District for FY 2019 - 2020 projects proposed in the Tax Increment Financing District Development Program.

The Select Board recommends Article 16

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 16 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Moores. Seconded by Mr Walker.

Ms Bourque – Again, tax increment financing has a pretty understood meaning in the business and I just want to note for the record the Town’s liberal use of this account. The Hawthorne House, RWPA and the Historical Society funding is contained in this tax increment financing being labeled as projects. I would just like that on the record.

Town Manager Willard – This particular Tax Increment Financing District was established near the dawn of such an instrument and it was characterized as a “soup to nuts” design. Since then they have been more narrowly drawn and more restrictive. At the time this was drawn it was permissible and typical. It probably wouldn’t be today. I think we are getting near the end of this.

Finance Director Ricker – It is a 30 year TIF. I believe we have 10ish years left.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$491,822 for the Administration account.

The Select Board recommends Article 17

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 17 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Mr Moores.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$26,675 for the Employee Compensation and Training account.

The Select Board recommends Article 18

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 18 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Moores. Seconded by Mr Walker.

Mr Walker – Just a comment. This seems to be working well, I hope the Town Manager agrees. The approach that was taken was pretty aggressive for a town to look at how they compensate and especially for performance and the way this is working is the way it was envisioned, replenishing this fund on an annual basis.

Town Manager Willard – It has been a bit of a learning experience. It has taken us some time to get our stride with it, but I would say that we are happy with it, it is working well, and it is still pretty unique. Noone is beating down our door saying, “We would like to do this.” It is a one-off program and it is working well.

Chair Gosselin – I will be recusing myself.

Approved by a vote of 6-1-1

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$59,051 for the Assessing account.

The Select Board recommends Article 19

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 19 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Walker. Seconded by Mr Oliver.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$94,886** for the Code Enforcement Department account.

The Select Board recommends Article 20

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 20 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Mrs Picavet.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$32,800** for the Town Buildings account.

The Select Board recommends Article 21

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 21 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Mr Moores.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$174,765** for the Technology Department account.

The Select Board recommends Article 22

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 22 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mrs Picavet. Seconded by Ms Rogers.

Ms Bourque – I would just like to compliment the town for the work they do in this regard. For a town of our size, it is pretty amazing what we are doing with technology here. The fact that we are broadcasting all of our meetings, we have video archives, a new town video series to educate the public. What we are doing with our own network with plans for the future is to be commended.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,000** for the Community Development account.

The Select Board recommends Article 23

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 23 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Moores. Seconded by Ms Rogers.

Ms Bourque – Again I would like to note for the record that this is the RTP bus, buried under something called the Community Development Account. By this vote the Select Board has indicated that the types of people who ride this current public transportation are not a good return on investment for the Town of Raymond for them to support. That means people who are going to work, people who need to get to medical appointments are not those who we wish

to support. The Board of Selectmen would rather volunteers solved how to get people to that public transportation. Note that the lack of support for this only link to public transportation may mean that it would not exist in the future. I point you to the headline in today's Portland Press Herald where the Metro Shuttle's success, in other words this is another experimental program, has been an outrageous success. Federal funding is about to run out and now towns need to fully support and pay for it so it can continue to exist. With that I just make the point that we seem to not to want to provide support for the current ridership, but we wish to solve a different problem inherent within Raymond. Thank you.

Mr Oliver – If we vote no to support this, would that mean that the Community Development Account would get \$0 funding?

Chair Gosselin – No. It is decided at Town Meeting. It would raise the discussion.

Mr DesJardins – It is decided at Town Meeting. That is why I am voting no on everything, because I know it is going to get *(a word I could not distinguish)* at Town Meeting and my vote won't matter anyway.

Mr Oliver – So if members of the Budget-Finance Committee felt this deserved more than \$1,000 ...

Mr Walker – Just on that point, if we were to not vote in favor of this, then you would have a mixed discussion and it would be possible that people would take the cue that they should not support this. They can't raise the amount because it is a closed warrant (*article*).

Mr Oliver – You must accept the \$1,000 or nothing.

Mrs Picavet – If the Budget-Finance Committee does not approve it, it could spark discussion.

Mr Walker – We could pass it, but have a split vote on it.

Chair Gosselin – I don't know if that is really going to catch people's eye. Does that go on the warrant?

Town Clerk Look – It does go on the warrant and I believe the Moderator reads the article, the Select Board recommendation and the Budget-Finance Committee recommendation.

Mr Bourque – Technically, if we do not recommend, we unanimously voted against it or the majority voted against it, it might spark question at Town Meeting.

Mrs Picavet – I really think that is the only way we are going to get a discussion.

Mr Oliver – It is too bad because I do support the account, but I do not support the amount.

Mr DesJardins – Has anybody on this Board ridden that bus?

Mr Walker – Yes.

Mr DesJardins – I have.

Ms Rogers – Is that the bus they are talking about that picks up at Sunset Variety?

Mr DesJardins – Yes. I made a comment about people getting their suboxone treatments and I wasn't making it as a snide remark or anything. It is the truth. People can't, they don't have a driver's license, they were kids, 23, 24 years old. And they were on this bus. It is a small bus, so you hear people talking. I disagree with the method they are treating these people with and I made that comment, but some people need that bus to get their treatment and that is the only way they can get it.

Ms Bourque – It is called the Lake Region Explorer. The Town of Raymond is one of the few communities that is not supporting it close to the amount that is being asked of each town. Which is pro-rated and the 2 main objections that the Select Board have are the stop itself (I think they believe if we moved it somewhere else more people could get to it, I am not so sure about that) and the other one is why should the people of Raymond pay the same \$3 as the people in Bridgton. If you did a budget analysis of what it would cost RTP to implement a varied fare on the route, it would be more expensive to collect those fares and account for those fares. It gets more complicated and more expensive to administer. Also, if you get on the bus out here you can ask for transfers, totally free, and you can get anywhere in Portland. You can get all the way to the airport, you can get to the Maine Mall, but that 302 bus is the only way you can get there. There is no other public transportation. This bus is kind of an experiment. If it doesn't get support from both ridership and the communities, when the funding dries up it will go away. Raymond may be wanting to solve what is referred to here in the State as the last mile problem, which is getting particularly seniors to public transportation. We may solve that, but there may be no public transportation to get them to. So, we have to decide how we want to vote on this one. I really do like Diane's concept and will be voting no.

Mr Walker – 2 quick points. First of all, I ride the bus about 15 times per year. The group of people on that bus are very varied. It goes from people like Dana was talking about, there are clearly people who are having their challenges, many of them are going to get medical care in Portland. I spoke with a gentleman not too long ago who retired and moved to Windham because he now had a way to go into town to see his family and has housing in Windham because it is more affordable than Portland. Some are kids commuting in to private schools like Chevrus. So, it is a interesting and varied group. It is not generally full. I think the ridership is increasing. I think they could do more to make the Town happy. They don't seem to be very responsive to the questions and invitations that the Town has put forth and I think they could be doing more on their part to make things helpful. The last point I want to make – the Lakes Region Explorer is one of many that is moving out of the population zone of Portland. As Portland is getting larger and larger and there are more companies there, I think there will be more of a need for the connection if we want connection to Portland and creating public transportation is one way to do that. It could be ultimately economically beneficial to the Town, but again it is public transport and it is hard to justify the cost without some kind of public funds. I do think it plays an important part of how Raymond stays connected to the larger area.

Mrs Picavet – What else is under this account?

Mr Walker – That is it.

Mrs Picavet – So, they would get the full \$1,000?

Ms Bourque – Right.

Defeated by a vote of 2-5-1

Motion to not recommend Article 23 by Mr Walker. Seconded by Mrs Picavet.

Mr Walker – I hope this works so we can have a dialog about it.

Ms Bourque – It really doesn't change anything.

Approved by a vote of 6-0-2

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$809,774** for the Fire/Rescue Department account.

The Select Board recommends Article 24

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 24 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Mr Moores.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$32,312** for the Animal Control account.

The Select Board recommends Article 25

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 25 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mrs Picavet. Seconded by Mr Oliver.

Mr Walker – This has been a hot button of mine over the years. The increase is 68% over a year ago. In 2016 we spent \$13, 954, so in 4 years it is up 131%. I don't know of a better solution and if I had one I would suggest it. We are making a pretty dramatic change from utilizing the shelter to sharing someone. It is a pretty rich compensation package that is being utilized. I understand the reasons why. I wanted to make note of this. I hope this dramatic increase in Animal Control give the number of animals that are managed through this that we can look for ways to keep this contained, if not reduced.

Town Manager Willard – That is the strategy we have followed for decades – find someone who is willing to do the job, do it will, be on 24X7X365 call for nothing. We haven't been very successful as a group of towns at finding and retaining that person. So here now we have a person who has been with us for a number of years, doing a great job. The 3 towns together said perhaps the time has come that we should approach this in a more responsible and responsive manner. That costs money. I don't expect that we are going to see this exponentially increase in the future. This is not a job that anyone wants. We have advertised for it and when you do get somebody you hope they want to do it for all the right reasons. Often times towns get zealots of various types and it doesn't end well. We have a good person who has been very dedicated. Call it a reward for a job well done. Call it moving into a more professional service. The other towns agree that this is the way to go. I am hopeful that we will have support here.

Mr DesJardins – Are Naples and Casco chipping in the same amount?

Town Manager Willard – Yes, it is an equal share.

Mr DesJardins – So we are looking at almost a \$100,000 position for Animal Control?

Town Manager Willard – It includes the insurance, the cost of the vehicle, equipment, etc.

Mr DesJardins – It is a used vehicle. What is going to be her salary?

Town Manager Willard - \$14 per hour.

Mr Walker – What is the benefits package?

Town Manager Willard – It is Casco's benefits package. It is a very rich benefits package compared with the other towns.

Mr DesJardins – Yeah, well that is why we don't work well with other towns, I guess.

Ms Bourque – I have no opinion on this particular warrant (*article*). I would just like to say that I think the concept of sharing staff amongst the towns is one that Raymond is going to continue to run into and I think as a Budget-Finance Committee we need to be open to these kinds of conversations. No town can afford to support what it will cost to do many jobs like what we do today. For example, a rec department. Things like a community services officer. I think that for towns like Raymond and others around Maine, this is becoming a new model of shared services. I know it hasn't worked out so well with the school district, but I think it is a model we should continue to look at. To provide professional services to citizens in our town. When that future will be, I am not quite sure, but they are using this model for other things in other towns and it has been working, not without its bumps. It is how to get professional service at a reduced cost.

Town Manager Willard – This also includes funding for a back-up. We have been more or less reliant on 1 person who was willing to do this on a continuous basis without a break. Very few people are willing to do that. So, there are hours in there so someone can have a day or 2 off or a vacation. I am open. If we have applicants, I am ready to take them for this job. When an animal is in crisis you expect a response and it is not going to be a priority for law enforcement. The Sheriff's department does a great job assisting her as much as possible. They have many more important things they are dealing with.

Mr Moores – Speaking as a person who was responsible for an Animal Control person, if you can get someone for \$32,000 for 24X7X265, you better get them and keep them. Night – day – 24X7, Animal Control at the wee hours of the morning, you can not tie law enforcement up at critical times of the day. If an animal is in crisis, they want someone there faster than the ambulance could get there.

Mr Oliver – Since we are sharing this employee, are we going to track the calls per town with time?

Town Manager Willard – Yes. That is a great question. How we ended up with the equal share is, it can vary. We have peaks and valleys. There was a cat hoarding incident in Casco one year and they had a number of calls. We had a poultry problem, a fowl problem 😊, in Raymond at one point so we had a spike in calls. Naples has a Blues Festival and people bring pets. We have a lot of dogs, the other towns have a lot of dogs. Many registered and a

lot unregistered. That is another thing that is being worked on with our Town Clerk and the other Town Clerks to make sure we have these animals registered. We are tracking it and can adjust it as necessary. It is pretty equal, actually.

Mr Oliver – I thought it would take a significant sample size before we understand the fluctuations each year. If we stay roughly within 10% of each other then let's keep it even, if not let's take a look at it.

Town Manager Willard – In most municipal formulas we look at actual use. Another way to look at it is population/valuation, we lose. This is the best formula for Raymond.

Approved by a vote of 7-0-1

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$771,633** for the Public Works account.

The Select Board recommends Article 26

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 26 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Mr Moores.

Ms Bourque – I can't believe they do it for this!

Mr Walker – They don't do it for this because there is also the CIP.

Ms Bourque – I know, the secret account CIP.

Mr Walker – No, it is not a secret account.

Approved by a vote of 6-1-1

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$338,458** for the Solid Waste account.

The Select Board recommends Article 27

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 27 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Moores. Seconded by Ms Bourque.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$35,643** for the Cemeteries account.

The Select Board recommends Article 28

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 28 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mrs Picavet. Seconded by Mr Moores.

Mr Moores – How many cemeteries are there in town?

Town Clerk Look – 7.

Approved by a vote of 6-2

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$17,700** for the Parks & Recreation account.

The Select Board recommends Article 29

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 29 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mrs Picavet. Seconded by Ms Rogers.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$60,000** for the Raymond Village Library.

The Select Board recommends Article 30

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 30 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mrs Picavet. Seconded by Ms Rogers.

Ms Bourque – I need to recuse on this warrant article. I can't vote, but I can discuss. The notion that the Library should spend its reserves and go to the town for its capital projects or its "funding source of last resort" is contrary to any known sound fiscal management program. This decision will leave the Library in a very nice deficit condition. A review of our balance sheet shows that the \$77,000 affectionately called "savings" or "cash" by the Board of Selectmen are designated or restricted funds. Let's use restricted instead of designated. These funds come from directed donations or grants that have specific requirements for spending. They can not be reallocated at Library Board discretion such as the town is able to do. The statement that "if the town residents supported the Library, they would donate more" is one I would like to comment on. I would like everyone to remember that the Library serves all, not just those in a position to make charitable donations.

Mr Walker – I think there are a number of things pressing the Library right now. One is the increasing minimum wage. I am amazed that the staff that the Library has, the amount of value that they add is pretty phenomenal. A big part of the increase proposed was to increase the number of hours for some staff, which would allow the Library to be open longer. I am disappointed that the Select Board did not go at least part way on that, if not the whole way. I

think that, as I mentioned in our discussion with the Select Board, if you look at the per capita cost with other towns, even if we went to \$70,000, we would still be almost at the bottom of that list. Given what the Library does, I think it is an amazing value. I am torn on this one because I would at least like to see a discussion on this one at the Town Meeting and I am not sure what is the best way to go about doing that so we create the inquisitiveness in people to have a dialog about it. And frankly, if we get input at Town Meeting that the Library doesn't matter that much, at least that is good input for next year to understand where the town needs to go.

Mr Oliver – I have been in the town for about 7 years now and I regret that I was not aware of the Library and what it had to offer. I knew that it was there. I have a 3.5 year old and a 1 year old. Since this was brought up a few months ago, we have been going to the Library and taking part in the children's activities and taking books out of the Library. My kids love it. I understand where the Select Board is coming from, but I wish we would have met in the middle. I also feel stuck. I wish we could support the Library with more and if it comes down to it I will look to privately see what I can do. I think it is doing a lot of great things and I think it should be available more hours.

Mr DesJardins – I just want to chime in and say that I agree. I wish we could have met a bit differently on the funds. The Library is one of the big reasons that I, it is a great program. My kids went through it. I now see a lot of senior citizens going there now. People that I never thought would go to the Library. A lot of people have nothing to do when they get old and read more. I would have to get the ones that read to me. 😊

Defeated by a vote of 1-6-1

Motion to not recommend Article 30 by Mr DesJardins. Seconded Mrs Picavet

6-0-2

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$8,000** for the General Assistance account.

The Select Board recommends Article 31

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 31 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Mr Walker.

Ms Bourque – Is this one of those unanticipated community needs where we may need more than \$8,000 in a given year where you could kind of move things around to support this account?

Town Manager Willard – Yes.

Mr Walker – It is matched by the State at 70%.

Mrs Picavet – Why wouldn't we put more in that account?

Chair Gosselin – We have never exceeded the budgeted amount.

Town Manager Willard – The reason we have a very low General Assistance (GA) is that we have a scarcity of affordable housing. We also have the Community Assistance Fund to help those who do not qualify for GA. This is an exceedingly low number.

Ms Bourque – One of the things that is coming up time and time, there is a lack of communication for people to know what is available to them. There is a wide variety of State programs and I am constantly amazed that people don't know where to start. They will call Don and he points them in the right direction. Communication is a big issue on how and why these things get used.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$2,000** for the support of Provider Agencies at the discretion of the Town Manager to assist the citizens of Raymond.

The Select Board recommends Article 32

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 32 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Mr Walker.

Mr Walker – I would really like to commend the Select Board for figuring out who are the best people who are helping our citizens and the Town Manager has a better pulse on that than anyone. I am hoping we will see that number go North in the future and I think it is a great start.

Ms Bourque – This is where in quiet ways we were told, “We can put Southern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA) in there.” They had asked for \$500. I don't disagree that this is a good first step. I do find the avoidance of this serious issue of demonstrated need and actual services provided to our residence kind of disingenuous by the Select Board. Meals-on-Wheels alone provided 792 meals to our residents. The SMAA documented \$18,000 worth of services to Raymond residents. We were somewhat facetiously told that they could bill us back. The avoidance of these issues is only going to cost the town more in the long run. As citizens will continue to turn to this as a last resort. I handed out a map when I came in. Just so you are aware of how this works in the State of Maine. The suggestion that another agency be found to provide the services is laughable at best. It shows a demonstrated lack of knowledge on how services are provided here in the State of Maine. The map shows that Maine is split up into 5 regional areas. SMAA is ours. Seniors+, which was referred to repeatedly, is in a different area of the State. To do a direct 990 comparison between any 2 of these agencies is totally incorrect. I would be like taking any 2 woodworking companies and making a definitive statement about their finances based on their tax returns. I find that totally incorrect. Federal and State funds flow to these agencies and flow through them. Raymond can not find another agency to provide particularly Meals-on-Wheels. As a point of fact, SMAA provides Meals-on-Wheels to Seniors+ because they have been unable to fill the need in their service area. We can not find another agency to provide their services. I think we are avoiding the larger issue of an aging population in the Town of Raymond, which will continue to get older. SMAA is the quality option in our region of the State.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$572,661** for the Insurance and Employee Benefits accounts.

The Select Board recommends Article 33

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 33 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Moores. Seconded by Ms Bourque.

Chair Gosselin and Mrs Picavet will be abstaining.

Approved by a vote of 5-1-2

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$323,600** for Debt Services.

Included are:

<u>2013 Public Works Road Construction Bond Payment</u>	\$ 224,000
2015 Bond Payment	\$ 99,600

The Select Board recommends Article 34

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 34 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Walker. Seconded by Mr Moores.

Mr Walker – We do a good job at managing debt in this town. In terms of our debt ratio it is very low.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$785,000** for the Capital Improvement Program.

Included are:

<u>Public Works Equipment Reserve</u>	\$ 215,000
<u>Public Works Paving/Road Reserve</u>	\$ 320,000
<u>Municipal Facilities Improvements</u>	\$ 35,000
<u>Technology</u>	\$ 105,000
<u>Fire Department Equipment/Facilities</u>	\$ 75,000
Playground Improvements	\$ 35,000

The Select Board recommends Article 35

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 35 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Walker. Seconded by Mr Oliver.

Ms Bourque – This is another one where if you go to other places in the budget, we are truly

supporting a reserve. It is not allocated for full spending. And my question remains, "Why should we have a reserve or cash on-hand if we are not using it to offset the budget costs?" I do understand the good fiduciary policy involved in this. Why aren't these numbers allocated in each department's budget as appropriate?

Chair Gosselin – It is a lot clearer here in one place than to be spread throughout the budget.

Ms Bourque – True, but not all of this is spending for the next fiscal year, correct?

Chair Gosselin – Yes. The Fire Department, for example, is building that account for new equipment.

Ms Bourque – What I am saying is that on one hand we are supporting reserves that have no specific purpose. We are actually supporting a savings account, is that correct?

Chair Gosselin – It would appear that way.

Ms Bourque – In some cases the Select Board does not appreciate organizations such as the Raymond Village Library doing the same thing for its roof, but we want to do that for the Town of Raymond. I support this, but the contradictory analysis of how funds are managed in the Town of Raymond vs. support services and outside organizations I find once again to be very different. I just want to point this out. The Capital Asset Account at the Library is bad and this Capital Improvement Account is good.

Mr Walker – This is where member Bourque and I have a difference of opinion. When you are buying things like a \$400,000 Fire Truck, you don't want to have a year where you suddenly have a fluctuation on what you need to raise for money because it is time to buy that truck. I think we do things in a pretty good way of being able to anticipate the need in the future and build that kitty so we have the money that we need when it is needed.

Ms Bourque – I agree with Mr Walker. If you do calculations to find what percentage of the budget this represents compared to things like a Capital Asset Account at the Library as a percentage of the budget, I don't think they are that far off. I am just saying that the standards of fiduciary management are being judged differently in different cases.

Mr Walker – Cathy, what is the appropriate amount of funds to have on-hand that gives us that AAA rating?

Finance Director Ricker – Unappropriated surplus. Right now, it exceeds 15%. Our policy is 15%. Basically, what they are looking for is the fact that you have a policy and you adhere to it.

Town Manager Willard – And that it would be within a range that is recommended by your auditor.

Ms Bourque – We asked, "What is the appropriate reserve to have?" and have not been able to get an answer.

Chair Gosselin – In terms of the CIP, we have gone both ways between bonding and CIP. It depends on which is most advantageous for the Town at the time.

Mr Oliver – I am curious about the \$35,000 in playground improvements. Is this the Mill Street Playground?

Town Manager Willard – Yes.

Mr Oliver – What is included in that?

Chair Gosselin – Nathan told us what was going on. They have 1 play gym and are adding a larger one.

Finance Director Ricker – They are adding a toddler one and then an older kid one. Then a walking trail.

Town Manager Willard – It has been a number of years since we have had a major renovation there. When my son was young it was in a state of disrepair and a group of young mothers mostly stepped up and improved it. Now there is a revived effort to get rid of the unsafe equipment and bring in safe and long lasting and high-quality equipment.

Ms Bourque – This is an example of a citizen who came to Town Meeting to register a complaint and the disrepair of that playground equipment. They were told you need to plan for it and come back in budget season. They did and the town responded by setting aside money.

Mr Oliver – Is there a certain person who is heading up this effort? Is there a defined scope for this project?

Town Manager Willard – Our Chair of the Board of Selectmen, Teresa Sadak, is heading it up. You can also contact Nathan White.

Mr DesJardins – Eileen Stiles was also instrumental in the playground.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the money received from the State for snowmobile registrations, not to exceed \$2,000, to the Raymond Rattlers Snowmobile Club for the maintenance of their network of snowmobile trails, on condition that those trails be open in snow season to the public for outdoor recreation purposes at no charge, and to authorize the municipal officers to enter into an agreement with the Club, under such terms and conditions as the municipal officers may deem advisable, for that purpose.

The Select Board recommends Article 36

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 36 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Moores. Seconded by Ms Rogers.

Ms Bourque – Again, this is another example of contradictory approaches by the Board of Selectmen. We sat in public session and we were all in agreement that snowmobile registration fees by practice are returned to the club. Raymond collected \$105.16 more than this warrant. When asked why the additional amount was not added, the response was, “Because they did not ask for it.” The Board of Selectmen have the authority to add this amount to the warrant. I personally am embarrassed by the Selectmen’s advice to the Rattlers. As with all small volunteer organizations, this small amount would mean a lot. I would ask that we make an effort to communicate this information to the club in future years. The number is known prior to their ask and it would be little effort on our part to let them know what that full account is so they can ask for the appropriate amount. I would ask that in future years we consider that. \$105 might not sound like a lot, but to a club like that, probably taking gas out of their own pockets, it is.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 37: To see whether the Town will vote to carry forward any existing fund balance in the Capital Improvement Program (C.I.P.) accounts, the Healthcare Reimbursement Accounts (H.R.A.), Tax Increment Financing (T.I.F.) for the playground, RSU Withdrawal Legal, Land Improvements in the Cemetery Fund, and the Employee Compensation Account.

The Select Board recommends Article 37

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 37 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Moores. Seconded by Ms Rogers.

Ms Bourque – I have the same complaint here. They are carrying forward unspent amounts, and why are they not used to reduce the budget?

Approved by a vote of 6-2

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$788,378** for the County Tax account.

The Select Board recommends Article 38

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 38 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Mrs Picavet.

Mr Walker – We do not have a choice, but I think this needs to be verbalized that this is a large increase that the County is bringing back to us. We have the mixed blessing of having a high valuation in the town. There is very little we can do to have them have the fiscal responsibility that we exercise in this town. With the exception of it being about \$25,000 less than our entire EMS Fire Department, this is our largest budget item now for the County of Cumberland. We do get benefit from it, not least of which is law enforcement. It has become a larger and larger portion of our budget. There is not much we can do about it, but I do think it needs to be verbalized.

Ms Bourque – Could we provide law enforcement for this amount?

Mr DesJardins – No way.

Town Manager Willard – I was going to make that point as well. The Cumberland County Sheriff's Office does an excellent job. They don't replicate what you could get from local law enforcement. In some ways they exceed it because of the depth and breadth of their coverage. There are also towns, especially on the coast, who are paying more than we are and are not using this service. We don't have the ability to have them target certain things like you would if we had our own local law enforcement – you pay more, but you get more. If you are looking to do law enforcement professionally and well and cheaply, this is it. We are also fortunate that a number of deputies live in Raymond.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 39: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the total sum of **\$1,569,728** from estimated non-property tax revenues to reduce the property tax commitment, together with all categories of funds, which may be available from the federal government, and any other sources.

The Select Board recommends Article 39

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 39 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Walker. Seconded by Mr Moores.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate from undesignated fund balance (surplus) to reduce the property tax commitment as the Select Board deem advisable an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

The Select Board recommends Article 40

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 40 (##)

Motion to recommend as written by Mr Moores. Seconded by Mrs Picavet.

Mr DesJardins – Are we taking any money out of surplus for this budget cycle? Is there any money in this budget for a *revaluation*?

Town Manager Willard – Yes on reval. In terms of surplus, the Selectmen have not decided what to apply, but that is what this article is about.

Mr DesJardins – At the beginning of the budget cycle it was said that we would not be touching surplus. There was a possibility that we could, but we were given that golden carrot that we weren't going to use it this year. If we have to, we have to. I wanted to know if any of that money is designated for a reval because that is one of the problems we have with the County Taxes. We haven't done a reval in how long? Is there a way we can do an adjustment that would cost less money than a full reval? We have done that before I believe.

Finance Director Ricker – It has been about 13 years since the last reval. Curt did not seem to think that an adjustment would be very palatable.

Town Manager Willard – We would be better served by a full reval than by adjusting 13 year old numbers. It is money well spent.

Finance Director Ricker – There is \$100,000 in this year's budget toward the cost of a reval, but we are not planning on doing it yet. Curt estimated that the cost would be in excess of \$300,000, so we are proposing to set aside \$100,000 each year for 3 years.

Mr DesJardins – Then we will have the same problem with the County next year then, because their value of our town...

Finance Director Ricker – Their value is based on the State valuation which is a few years older than our last reval.

Mr DesJardins – I think it would be money well spent if we would take money out of surplus and pay for a full reval. I think it would be the fair thing to do for all taxpayers in this town.

Mrs Picavet – But if the County goes by the State reval, does it matter?

Finance Director Ricker – Eventually it catches up, the State is just behind. The State uses a sort of rolling average that is always going up. Curt said it is a matter of timing with the market too. If we have a recession it is not a good time to do a reval. For some people it may seem like a good idea, but overall it is not.

Town Manager Willard – What you are going to see with a reval is a redistribution of the tax burden and a significant increase in the value. Not everybody is 100% honest and a reval

picks up instances where improvements were made without permits (for example).

Mr DesJardins – The lakefront properties that are being built are obviously being valued at current market value.

Town Manager Willard – Yes.

Mr DesJardins – But when you go 10 or 11 years on some of these lakefront properties... that's where I am going with that. The lakefront property is our economy. That is what pays the bills.

Town Manager Willard – Yes. I will tell you the big driver – we will probably need to use the full \$300,000 requested from surplus, take a look at the school budget and that increase. It is an order of magnitude of \$1,000,000.

Mr DesJardins – Yes, but the school does not have luxury of taking surplus money to lower their budget.

Town Manager Willard – I am talking about straight line spending is \$1,000,000.

Mr DesJardins – I realize that. I have always voted no on the County, but we are getting a good value for it.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will vote to authorize Town Staff to make application for and execute any documents related to a grant; and to authorize the Select Board to accept or reject grants, donations and/or gifts of money to the Town of Raymond; and to authorize the expenditure of monies awarded, donated and/or gifted for the purposes specified in the grant, donation, and/or gift.

The Select Board recommends Article 41

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 41 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Mrs Picavet. Seconded by Mr Walker.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

ARTICLE 42: To see if the Town will vote to accept certain State Funds as provided by the Maine State Legislature during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and any other funds provided by any other entity included but not limited to:

- Municipal Revenue Sharing
- Local Road Assistance
- Emergency Management Assistance
- Snowmobile Registration Money
- Homestead Exemption
- Tree Growth Reimbursement
- General Assistance Reimbursement
- Veteran's Exemption Reimbursement
- Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) Reimbursement
- State Grant or Other Funds

The Select Board recommends Article 42

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 42 (#-#)

Motion to recommend as written by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Ms Rogers.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

Mr Walker – Before you read Article 43, should we be voting on this one? It does not seem to have a budget aspect to it.

Town Manager Willard – It pertains to money and funding. The history of this is it came about maybe 25 years ago. The Maine Legislature did not think that towns were thankful enough for all the wonderful intergovernmental revenue they sent our way. This article is a mandate from the State.

Mr Walker – I am talking about the next one, I am sorry.

Ms Bourque – I agree with Brian. This appears to be totally within the authority of the Select Board.

Town Clerk Look – I asked the same question that Mr Walker asked and was told that while there is not a dollar figure in the article itself, there are dollars (so to speak) going back and forth between Raymond and Gray in “like kind” type of services. So, it still has a financial-ish background and the Selectmen would prefer to have your recommendation.

Town Manager Willard – You are talking about taking on a financial liability for all perpetuity, taking on the maintenance of this section of road.

Chair Gosselin – The residents along this section are contributing as well, so it is not as though the town is footing the whole bill.

Town Manager Willard – With the exception of the monies you are going to spend maintaining this in perpetuity, which also is a quid-pro-quo as they will be doing some maintenance for us on the North Raymond Road, so that is a wash. The rest is in “The Raymond Way” so revenue neutral in the sense that the money we are dedicating to this is money we were going to spend for equipment anyway. We are going to contribute \$67,000 roughly which is the exact amount

we were going to spend buying a heavy-duty plow truck from the Town of Gray. Instead they are donating it to us and we will put the money into this section of Gore Road. We consider that to be revenue neutral.

Ms Bourque – So it will come out of the Public Works budget forevermore.

Town Manager Willard – Yes, and out of the Gray Public Works budget.

ARTICLE 43: To see if the Town, pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A. § 3025, will vote to accept the dedication made by the land owners listed below of title in fee simple in a strip of land bounded and described as follows: a portion of Gore Road to a width of three rods, which is 49' 6" wide or 24' 9" from the center line; and to accept and establish a town way on said strip of land; and to authorize the Select Board to enter into an agreement with the Town of Gray for assistance with this project, outlining the terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Owner(s)	Address	Map-Lot
Timothy B Kilvert	76 Gore Rd	008-007
John E Powers	0 Gore Rd	008-009
Wendy McEnroe & David Redlon	9 Paw Print Pass	008-009-A
Keith A & Cynthia F Minton	7 Paw Print Pass	008-010
Judith V Blake	86 Gore Rd	008-011
Robert C & Laura J King	90 Gore Rd	008-012
Edmund A & Anne C Angell	94 Gore Rd	008-013
Central Maine Power Company	98 Gore Rd	008-014
Thomas M LaPierre	0 Gore Rd	008-015
	93 Gore Rd	008-016
Kamden B Berry & Heather A Levesque	89 Gore Rd	008-017
Joseph E Letourneau	84A Gore Rd	008-018
Katherine A & James M Anderson	83 Gore Rd	008-018-A
Elinor L Doyle	2 Dolimount Rd	008-019

The Select Board recommends Article 43

The Budget-Finance Committee recommends/does not recommend Article 43 (##)

Motion to recommend as written by Ms Bourque. Seconded by Ms Rogers.

Ms Bourque – I think it is great that everybody is finally coming together to fix this problem. I had no idea what it is about, but I have heard about it at least once per year at a public meeting.

Mr Oliver – Is this to repair the section of Gore Road that is like you will lose your car?

Chair Gosselin – Yes.

Mr Moores – Is this going to solve the problem 10 years down the road.

Town Manager Willard – Yes, because this will now be a public way and we will be fixing it.

Mr Walker – Just as a ballpark, 10 years down the road cost of maintenance?

Town Manager Willard – For the first 10 years you probably will not see any cost because it

will be built in the standard of a town way. It will be plowing and sanding for 10 years.

Mr Walker – How long a stretch is this?

Town Manager Willard – About a quarter of a mile.

Approved by a vote of 7-1

4) Committee Comments

Ms Bourque – The ordinance that authorizes this committee also gives us other responsibilities. Will we have a meeting to discuss those?

Chair Gosselin – We will meet.

5) Public Comments

Town Manager Willard – I would like to thank you all for your efforts on this budget. I would like to thank the out-going members for your years of service. It is not easy. We know we do not always agree on everything, but that is the nature of small-town government. I know everyone has in their hearts what they think is the right thing and I think we have been able to work together closely and collaboratively. At the end of the day we are working together for the benefit of the Town of Raymond. I would also like to thank our staff, Cathy and Sue and our Board of Selectmen (*applause*), the Department Heads. It is a collaborative effort.

Mr Walker – And thank you (*Mr Gosselin*) for your chairmanship.

6) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:30pm by Mr Moores. Seconded by Mrs Picavet.
Unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L Look, Town Clerk