



Budget-Finance Committee Minutes

November 8, 2024 at 6:30pm

At Broadcast Studio & Via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Karen Lockwood (Chair), Deanna Lee, Frank McDermott, Shawn McKillop (Vice Chair), Cliff Small, Don Willard

Committee Members Absent: Chris Hanson

Town Staff Present:

Brenda Fox-Howard (Finance Director); Sue Look (Town Manager); Nathan White (Public Works Director)

1. **Called meeting to order** at 6:39pm by Chair Lockwood with a quorum present
2. Approval of the Minutes
None
3. Update on the progress of the bank statement reconciliation for June, July and August.
Finance Director Fox-Howard said that the June statement is complete, July is still in process because there was a heavier workload to finalize that month. By the next meeting, the expenditures and revenues should be completed through at least July, if not also August.

Ms. Lee asked for clarification on a few budget lines. The salary line is higher than usual right now. Town Manager Look explained that two employees have left and that higher amount reflects is already over budget. Without looking into it deeper, Town Manager noted that there have been more meetings to be broadcast and that the salary has been increased a bit. She and Finance Director Fox-Howard both noted that they'll look into that further for an explanation of the increase.

Ms. Lee asked whether anyone present could answer questions about Fire Department vehicles and contracts. The answer for that question will have to be directed to the Fire Department directly.

Public Works Equipment Maintenance is budgeted for \$75,000 and is currently at \$103,000. Director White noted that equipment has broken that doesn't normally break, and the cost of repairs has gone up higher than was budgeted for.

Milfoil Removal costs are up significantly. This was clarified that the Town has taken over milfoil from Raymond Waterways this year, it's subcontracted out. There was supposed to be some cost sharing that hasn't come through. Mr. Small noted that he's on the board of directors for one of the groups that was involved in the cost sharing for this expense, and he recalls they sent a check to the Town. He also noted that there should be funds from a State grant applied also.

Vice Chair McKillop noted that he asked for more money for the milfoil remediation budget, but it was denied. He said he will be asking for more money again this next budget, since there is clearly a trend of it costing more than has been budgeted. The playground line has been overspent. Director White noted that is a carryover account from the CIP budget, and that Joe Crocker has plans for that.

4. Update on the progress of the Fiscal Audit conducted for FY23-24.

Finance Director Fox-Howard said that the auditors reached out again earlier this week for some additional information and noted that they are likely to request more information next week. The auditor's review is ongoing.

5. Staff Update on the Budget-Finance Committee recommendation for updated purchasing policy.

Town Manager Look noted that she's reviewed the recommendations and the copies of policies from other municipalities. She's currently focused on the audit, and helping Finance get ready for the next budget season. Once those are more settled, she will turn her focus to the policies, once some proposed changes have been formed, they will be submitted to the Select Board for their consideration.

6. Tabled Item from October 16th meeting: Discussion of financing a new dump truck and excavator.

Public Works Director White said that during the budget process last year, he had discussed financing the dump truck and excavator with the Select Board. After the meeting, it was decided to go with another direction. The truck will be built and put together by Allegiance Truck sometime late summer 2025. There will be about 140,000 carried over and the \$225,000 that's normally budgeted for that, which will give plenty of money to pay for it without needing to finance. The excavator purchase will be reviewed through the next budget process.

Mr. Willard asked about a non-appropriation clause in the contract for the truck. This would allow the Town to back out of the agreement in the rare event that the budget item does not pass at the Annual Town Meeting. Director White said that was included in the agreement.

7. Discussion of Traffic Calming Solutions in Raymond.

Vice Chair McKillop asked Director White to give an update of the status of borrowing a sign from the County. The County isn't loaning signs again until the spring. The Town's sign is up and running as of today and should be out on Egypt Road in the beginning of next week. This sign will record top speed, traffic count, low speed, and will flash when one goes over the speed limit – it can be set for whatever speed.

It will go on Egypt Road first, and will need to be pulled when any snow comes.

Vice Chair McKillop noted that the fatal accident on Egypt Road has made him more focused on taking more action, and budgeting for necessary action. Feels that people are only thinking of themselves, passing in No Passing Zones, passing stopped school busses, speeding, driving recklessly. Signs aren't going to be the solution.

Mr. McDermott has noticed many posts on social media where many people are complaining about speeding and other traffic safety concerns.

Select Board Vice Chair Sadak spoke to a past request/discussion with Sheriff Joyce; it was said that if Raymond develops our own police department, any Sheriffs that are

patrolling here will be pulled out of Raymond and would be assigned elsewhere in the County. This is a more complex issue to resolve.

Mr. McDermott clarified that people seem to be requesting contracted Sheriff Deputies, not the creation of our own police Department.

Vice Chair McKillop feels that having a contracted Deputy or two present would make a difference. Noticed an increased police presence in his travels on Wednesday, and that seemed to keep drivers in line.

Further discussion centered around how to proceed with the research and implementation of an appropriate increase in police presence.

Motion to recommend that the Select Board create a committee to study the police enforcement in the Town of Raymond by Mr. McKillop. Seconded by Mr. McDermott
Unanimously approved

8. Discussion of December Budget Finance Committee meeting date.

- Wednesday, December 18th, 2024 @ 6:30PM

9. Public Comment

Chair Lockwood opened the floor for Public Comment, no one spoke.

10. Budget-Finance Committee Comment

Chair Lockwood opened the floor for Committee Comment, the following individuals spoke:

Vice Chair McKillop noted that the Comprehensive Plan Committee members handed out 1000 flyers on Election Day. Encouraged everyone to go on the Town's website to review the Plan and to comment on any feedback.

Mr. McDermott noted that the Comprehensive Plan Committee is holding a Public Hearing on the Plan on December 4th at 6:30pm

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:25pm by Mr. McDermott. Seconded by Vice Chair McKillop.
Unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Fernald, Town Clerk