

Selectmen Meeting Minutes with the
Budget/Finance Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 2003
2003-2004 Budget Review

Attendance: Ada Brown, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen; Betty McDermott; Christine McClellan; Dana Desjardins; Rolf Olsen, Chairman of the Budget/Finance Committee; Jane Jordan; Coleen Laprise; Louise Murray; Ralph Bartholomew; Wayne Holmquist; Stephanie Bubier; Ernest Allen; Bob Jones; Lori Forbes and Kevin Woodbrey, Technology Committee; Elizabeth Algeo and John Rand from the Conservation Commission; Elizabeth Cummings, Finance Director; Nathan White, Public Works Director; Denis Morse, Fire Chief; and Don Willard, Town Manager.

1. Call to order. Ada Brown and Rolf Olsen opened the meeting at 7:00 pm at the Town Office.
2. Consideration of the 2003-2004 Municipal Budget.

PUBLIC WORKS \$431,906

Mr. Willard reported that there has been a change for the reduction of salaries. This year salaries will be at CPI 3% with the added value originally meant to bring all positions to the area standard being delivered over the next three years in three equal parts. The amount over the 3% will be divided by 3 and each of the next three years budget will include that amount of increase. He felt that in this event the Public Works Director will remain paid hourly instead of salary until the third year. Mr. White said that the Materials budget would be for jobs other than those funded by the CIP account. The salt budget will increase because of the contract changes with P&K Sand and Gravel. The new contract with P&K is for five years with a CIP increase built in. Because of this contract the current manpower in the Public Works Department will not be increased. Mr. White continued that the money in the CIP for a new building at the Plains Road facility will be deleted. The ability to use the old District One Station for storage of vehicles will be enough for now. Bob Jones noted that the Roadside mowing line should be \$4,000 and not \$2,400. Mr. White concurred that it was a typo. Mr. Olsen asked if the Camp Agawam playing fields maintenance would come under Public Works. Mrs. Cummings said it would be found under Parks and Recreation.

FIRE DEPARTMENT \$414,788

Chief Morse noted that Raymond now needed 24 hour EMS coverage. At the present time regional agreements are being discussed because mutual aid is becoming increasingly more one-sided and Raymond must look for a solution because the other towns should be helping to defray the cost. He also said that our call volume is increasing while the revenues are decreasing because of Medicare and Medicaid scaling back their reimbursements. He envisioned charging a flat fee of \$250 per call plus the fees from the patient. Mr. Allen felt that everyone should pay their fair share especially non-Raymond residents.

DISPATCH \$148,131

Mr. Willard announced that this amount shown does not include the fact that Poland has notified us that they will not be joining our dispatch next year. This will increase the budget by \$70,000. We have offered to keep them at the same price they would be paying Androscoggin County \$20,000 so that they would continue with us and our plan for a regional dispatch. Chief Morse gave a brief history of the study into a regional dispatch. Mr. Willard emphasized the need for cooperation among towns. He believed this would allow our dispatch budget to be reduced.

EMA \$1,200

Mr. Willard announced that Sam Webster has taken over the position of EMA Director which will allow it to be integrated into the Fire Department.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICE \$11,060 (\$3,800 will come from the ACO account)

Christine McClellan asked if medical expenses were included in this budget for the ACO officers like preventative vaccinations.

INFRESTRUCTURE \$22,905

Mr. Willard announced that with the new Portland Water District hydrants the Town's ISO rating came down to 5.8 – 8 depending on the distance a home is from a hydrant or fire station. Mr. Olsen asked about the status of

dry hydrants and their maintenance. Mr. Willard said he would find out.

SOLID WASTE \$598,675

No comments.

CEMETERIES \$11,739

Mrs. Cummings said the budget is driven by the weather and how many times they need to be mowed. If we have a dry summer then the budget isn't hit as hard as a wet summer. Mrs. McDermott said that the Cemetery Committee did a great deal of work such as picking up the cemeteries and cleaning stones. Mr. Holmquist asked if they intended to go out to bid for this job. Mrs. Cummings replied that it has been her experience that the present contractor is the most economical bid as well as doing a very good job but bids could be considered if desired. Mrs. McDermott explained that the \$1,000 for map and lot location planning will be used at the new piece of the North Raymond Cemetery.

PARKS \$16,431

Mrs. Cummings reported that the Raymond Beach parking tickets helped support the parks. Mr. Willard added that the landscaping for the Raymond Beach area would finally be done in accordance with the Route 302 project this year.

UNCLASSIFIED \$51,487

Mr. Willard noted that there are 5 new requests. He informed the Boards that in other towns it is necessary for requests to be filed with a signed petition of the residents along with financial papers showing what the organization will do for the Town. He suggested a filtering process in the future before anyone can be added to the warrant. Mr. Holmquist felt that these monies should be considered grants from the Town. Mr. Jones didn't feel that WCBB should get funds from the Town because they probably already get individual donations from Raymond residents as well as State and Federal funding.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS \$886,492

Mr. Willard said that the Selectmen had decided to reduce the item by \$40,000 for the Town Office Reserve leaving it at \$10,000 also the \$50,000 for a new Public Works building at the Plains Road site has been deleted. It was noted that the amount included for road repair and rebuilding was imperative.

COUNTY TAX \$405,202

Mr. Willard's only comment was that if the County decides to put in their expanded dispatch center, this amount will increase for sure next year.

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$122,799

Mrs. Cummings explained that the budget for the newspaper (Roadrunner) is \$7,200 with the School supporting a similar amount.

Mr. Woodbrey stated that \$15,000 could be deducted for the video studio manager because the position could be included in the duties of the Technology Director. Mrs. Brown asked to vote on the Technology Department budget.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to wait to vote until their next meeting when Mr. Leavitt can attend. No second

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to approve the Technology Department Budget. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: 3 in favor (McClellan, McDermott, Brown) 1 opposed (Desjardins)

Mr. Desjardins said that he felt their special meeting last Friday was held so that all Selectmen could attend and he was against this vote because Mr. Leavitt was not here. Mrs. Brown said that she called the meeting on Friday to try to have a unanimous vote on the budget but that didn't seem to be possible and so going ahead with this vote was necessary in order to pass the budget. Mrs. McDermott felt they had made a good choice and our system needs Kevin Woodbrey. She also felt that this item should be put to the Town for their decision at Town Meeting. Mrs. McClellan wanted to maintain what we already have as well as progress with new technology and equipment to keep current in the industry. Mr. Willard noted that this position will be advertised and open to anyone who wants to apply. Mr. Holmquist noted that keeping the website updated and current was very important because it is the first introduction to the Town for many people who are potential homeowners or

businessmen.

NEXT MEETING: Mr. Olsen set the next meeting for Monday, March 17, 2003 7:00 pm at the Town Office.

3. Adjourn. Mrs. Brown and Mr. Olsen adjourned the meeting at 9:56 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk