

Selectmen/Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 27, 2003

Attendance: Ada Brown, Chairman; Betty McDermott; Charles Leavitt; Dana Desjardins; Christine McClellan; Rolf Olsen, Chairman Budget/Finance Committee; Budget/Finance Committee members – David Rowe, Ralph Bartholomew; Louise Murray; Stephanie Bubier; Suzanne Brockelbank; Denis Morse, Fire Chief; Nathan White, Public Works Director; John Rand, Conservation Commission; Joseph Bruno, town meeting moderator; Elizabeth Cummings, Finance Director; Elisa Trepanier, Technology; Lorie Forbes, Technology Committee; Bob Murray, Public Safety Building Clerk of the Works; and Don Willard, Town Manager.

1. Call to order. Ada Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Public Safety Building.

2. Consideration of the 2003-2004 Municipal Budget.

DISCUSSION: The transcript of the adjournment of the May 17, 2003 Town Meeting was discussed, and it was determined that the meeting was adjourned; therefore the next town meeting will be under a new warrant.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to hold a special town meeting on June 14, 2003.
Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Stephanie Bubier motioned that the Budget/Finance Committee recommend the articles as amended. Seconded by Louise Murray.

VOTE: Unanimous.

DISCUSSION: John Rand requested that there be added articles after the submitted municipal articles for some of those things which the municipal articles don't cover such as the money for land acquisition and the part-time code enforcement position. Mr. Willard felt that the last town meeting indicated a clear direction for the budget but new articles could be included if the Selectmen allowed them. He felt that a letter of petition for a request for additional article(s) be forwarded to the Selectmen for their decision. Mrs. Cummings reviewed the budget changes from the May 17th warrant and said that the Technology account as it has accrued should be carried forward. She said that if the

\$26,000 wasn't used, it would revert to the fund balance. This amount of money was not used this year.

Christine McClellan asked about the level of surplus to be used? In the 5/17 warrant the town was to use \$450,000 to help lower the tax rate.

Mr. Olsen said that the \$26,000 in the CIP for the cable equipment might be used now during the 2002-2003 year to purchase cable capital equipment.

Chief Morse reported that they had cut the Fire Department budget in maintenance and training. He said they would be depending on the Public Works Department to help with general truck maintenance but felt they needed more funding for training and standby personnel.

There was discussion about the cessation of the Roadrunner and thought it might be able to be produced quarterly instead of monthly. Mr. Willard said the town office didn't have personnel enough to produce it at all. It was also questionable whether the school would have their share available. Mr. Rowe asked if it could become a commercial paper with advertising paying for it. It was felt that advertising had been discussed in the past and felt it was not appropriate. Mr. Desjardins thought that possibly Raymond could use the Bridgton News for our news.

Mrs. Forbes asked if the \$20,000 for contract services was included to maintain our servers. Mr. Willard replied yes that Raymond would advertise for RFP's but that he had talked with CBE Tech who already takes care of other town's systems.

Mr. Leavitt noted that there is a small amount in the budget for the town office study committee and some money for repairs and restoration to keep the building viable.

Mr. Rand felt the assistant CEO position should be considered. Mr. Olsen asked if the amount in the new budget was enough to do the job. He didn't want that money to sit if the position wasn't going to be filled when it could be used elsewhere. He asked if this was discretionary money in the current budget.

The fact that a small piece of sidewalk was not included in the original Route 302 Plan along Sebago Waterspouts, it was discussed whether the money should be used by Public Works to complete the sidewalk.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned that the \$11,581 be put into the budget for the part-time CEO position. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to approve the budget as amended. Seconded by Charles Leavitt.

VOTE: Unanimous.

DISCUSSION: Chief Morse explained that Glen Builders, the contractor for the Public Safety Building, asked for the remaining money be given them which is being held by the town because of the problem with the waterline down the driveway to the Portland Water District waterline and the ice damming on the roofs. The town is holding \$36,000. He said that Glen Builders is giving a one year warranty on the driveway and there is also a performance bond still in force.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to release \$32,000. Seconded by Betty McDermott.

VOTE: Unanimous.

There was discussion of a “fail safe” article in case this budget doesn’t pass. Mr. Leavitt asked if this motion could be made from the floor. Mr. Bruno replied affirmatively. Mr. Olsen requested that if this is done that there be wording explaining that this article would not be the entire budget for the year.

Mr. Willard asked what level of surplus should be used? Mrs. Cummings explained that using \$450,000 leaves the town with \$1,200,000 left in undesignated surplus which is considered by the auditors less than optimum.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to reconsider the Selectmen’s recommendation concerning accepting Brown Road and Ball Drive as town roads. Seconded by Betty McDermott.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to not recommend the acceptance of Brown Road and Ball Drive as town roads. Seconded Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to adjourn the Selectmen’s meeting. Seconded by Betty McDermott.

VOTE: Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: Ada Brown adjourned the Selectmen’s meeting at 8:48 pm and turned the meeting over to Rolf Olsen, Chairman of the Budget/Finance Committee.

MOTION: Stephanie Bubier motioned to recommend the budget as printed and amended. Seconded by Louise Murray

DISCUSSION: There was discussion of some of the capital items. Mr. Willard noted that the revaluation won’t be in this year as hoped but the next. Mr. White said that the paving budget was now down to \$100,000. They will also continue to use one of the 1-ton trucks instead of trading it in. He added that the proposed wheeler truck purchase was also cut because without the paving originally planned it wouldn’t be necessary. There was a utility machine in the original budget to be used for work such as plowing the new sidewalks, but this has been cut as well.

It was noted that the cable TV studio equipment has been eliminated.

Chief Morse said that they were looking at a used extraction truck which will be able to carry foam and some water. He said there was still a drastic shortage of personnel and the loss of Poland for Dispatch will lead Raymond into a regional dispatch located in Naples.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Stephanie Bubier motioned to not recommend that Brown Road and Ball Drive be accepted as town roads. Seconded by David Rowe.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: There was a motion and second to adjourn.

VOTE: Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: Rolf Olsen adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting for the budget will be June 4th, 2003 at Raymond Elementary School at 7:00 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk