

Selectmen, Budget/Finance Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Attendance: Ada Brown, Chairman; Charles Leavitt; Dana Desjardins; Christine McClellan; Rolf Olsen, Chairman of the Budget/Finance Committee; Jane Jordan, Ralph Bartholomew, Coleen Laprise, David Rowe, Suzanne Brockelbank, Wayne Holmquist, Louise Murray, Stephanie Bubier, and Don Willard, Town Manager. Also from the School Committee Brenda Stevenson, Chairman; Frank Dexter; Frank McDermott; Jeraldine Keane; Sandra Caldwell, Superintendent; Norma Richard, Principal Raymond Elementary; Charles Miller, Principal Jordan-Small Middle School; and Meg Waters, Special Education Director.

School Committee Meeting

1. Call to order. Brenda Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at Raymond Elementary School.

NOTE: This meeting was hosted by the School Committee and since all three committees had to meet to discuss the budgets to be ready for our Special Town Meeting on June 14, 2003 it was decided to have all three meet at the same place at the same time. Because of this it was decided that the School Committee should discuss their budget first with the Budget Committee making their recommendations, then the Selectmen adding their recommendations.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION:

- a. Psychiatry item deleted.

It was explained that this would be covered by other consultant services still in the budget. These services would not be as specific but would be acceptable.

- b. Teachers.

It was said that the shift of a teacher from Jordan-Small Middle School to the first grade in Raymond Elementary would still allow the same class size and would attempt to preserve the learning atmosphere already established.

- c. Superintendent remuneration.

The reduced budget reflects not only the Superintendent's pay through reduction in hours but also benefits.

d. Jordan-Small Middle School Renovation budget fund balance.

The fact that there was \$35,000 left from the money available for the renovation was discussed because the School Committee asked that some of that money be allowed to help pay for the boiler and chimney repairs needed at Jordan-Small. If this were allowed they would like to use that amount of money to pay for some of the things like athletics which were cut from the original budget. It was felt that even though these repairs were not a part of the original renovation project, that money could be used for the suggested repairs. It was felt that the latest budget which has money allotted for these repairs could then support athletics and other needed items which were cut from the original budget. Any money left from this fund balance should be returned to the town's fund balance account.

e. New School Bus.

It was felt that the replacement of a 1988 bus was preferable to repairing it.

f. Reducing the bus routes.

Bus routes have been reduced in this budget which was announced last year for Poland students.

g. Warrant recommendations.

A request was made that if a recommendation was going to be negative that the committee making that recommendation should provide the recommended amount and not leave it open so that the voters can understand what is being considered.

h. Capital Maintenance.

The items in the budget are those which have been delayed for a long time and they need to be addressed. There are no items involved which should be deleted. The schools would like to have a proactive protocol for repairs instead of a reactive one.

i. Impact on Education System.

It was stated that with this budget the schools would maximize their staff for education and move forward, however it will be at a slower rate. They will be doing the same things only differently than originally planned.

j. Interscholastic activities.

These activities will be offered through volunteers instead of paid personnel. They will maximize their resources.

k. Gifted and Talented.

This is a mandated program under Special Education. The teacher's salary is budgeted in the median range. The goal is to have a long standing progressive program with continuity from year to year. They will be using the inclusion model which allows this program to be taught in the regular classroom.

l. Preferential items to bring back after cuts.

It was stated that the preferred items to replace would be athletics and possibly the Roadrunner.

m. Authority to use the Jordan-Small Middle School renovation surplus.

It was discussed as to whether the use of this money would have to be allowed through a town meeting vote. It was decided that the Selectmen could make that decision.

n. The cut of Summer School.

It was said that the schools would provide a summer course plan to parents to work with their children.

o. Waivers from the mandated state and federal requirements "No Child Left Behind".

It was noted that there are no waivers known to relieve a school system from these mandates. It was asked what would happen if Raymond didn't comply. The response was that it wasn't a consideration to not comply and that the laws pertaining to these mandates are very complex and a work in progress. A comment was made that since Raymond has no high school it is a unique town and possibly could be held differently than other towns with high schools.

MOTION: Frank McDermott motioned for the School Committee to ask the Selectmen to allow \$22,000 of the \$35,000 left from the Jordan-Small Renovation Project funds to be used to renovate the boiler and chimney at Jordan-Small Middle School. Seconded by Frank Dexter.

VOTE: Unanimous by the School Committee

MOTION: Frank McDermott motioned to recess the School Committee meeting to provide time for the Selectmen to ask this question. No second.

MOTION: Frank McDermott motioned that the School Committee change the amount in Article 5 to \$488,442.00 in anticipation of having the \$22,000 available from the Jordan-Small Middle School Renovation Project surplus, and to change Article 13's amount to \$37,498.00. Seconded by Jeraldine Keane.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Frank McDermott motioned that the School Committee approve the amended budget articles for the June 14, 2003 Special Town Meeting. Seconded by Jeraldine Keane.

VOTE: Unanimous.

p. Use of the rest of the Jordan-Small Middle School Renovation Surplus.

It was noted that if the School Committee needs to have access to more of this surplus they would need to petition the Selectmen for a special town meeting to address the question.

RECESS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING.

Brenda Stevenson recessed the School Committee meeting at 9:40 pm.

BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OPENING

Rolf Olsen opened the Budget/Finance Committee meeting at 9:04 pm.

MOTION: Stephanie Bubier motioned that the Budget Committee recommend the school budget as presented. Seconded by Jane Jordan.

VOTE: 8 in favor (Olsen, Jordan, Bubier, Laprise, Bubier, Murray, Rowe, Brockelbank) 1 opposed (Bartholomew)

ADJOURNMENT OF BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Rolf Olsen adjourned the Budget/Finance Committee meeting at 9:44 pm.

SELECTMEN'S MEETING OPENING

Ada Brown opened the Selectmen's meeting at 10:02 pm.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to recommend Article 2. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to recommend Article 3. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Christine McClellan motioned to recommend Article 4 in the amount of \$266,167. Seconded by Charles Leavitt.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Christine McClellan motioned to recommend Article 5 in the amount of \$488,442. Seconded by Charles Leavitt.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to recommend Article 6 in the amount of \$355,201. Seconded by Charles Leavitt.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to recommend Article 7 in the amount of \$15,000. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to recommend Articles 8 through 17 as requested by the School and Budget/Finance Committees. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.
VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Christine McClellan motioned to recommend Article 18 in the amount of \$1,662,412. Seconded by Charles Leavitt.
VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Christine McClellan motioned to recommend Article 19 in the amount of \$7,628,198. Seconded by Charles Leavitt.
VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Christine McClellan motioned to recommend Articles 20 and 21 as written. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.
VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to approve the utilizing of the undesignated surplus by the language in Article 4 to allow the School Committee to use \$22,000 for the operations of the plant at Jordan-Small Middle School. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.
VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to adjourn the Selectmen's Meeting. Seconded by Christine McClellan.
VOTE: Unanimous.

SELECTMEN'S MEETING ADJOURNMENT.
Ada Brown adjourned the Selectmen's meeting at 10:13 pm.

NOTE: The School Committee continued their meeting. Those minutes are available that the Superintendent's Office.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk