



**Budget-Finance Committee
Minutes**

April 11, 2016

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.

Members in attendance: Marshall Bullock, Debra Duchaine, Robert Gosselin, Rolf Olsen, Brian Walker, Brien Richards, Stephen Crockett

Member(s) not in attendance: Nicholas Pitarys, Abigail Davis

Selectmen in attendance: Joe Bruno

Town Staff in attendance:

Don Willard – Town Manager
Nancy Yates – Finance Director
Cathy Gosselin – Deputy Fire Chief
Sue Look – Town Clerk

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

2) **Minutes of previous meeting**

a) **March 7, 2016**

Motion to approve as amended previously via emails by Mr Walker. Seconded by Mr Bullock.

Unanimously approved.

3) **Consideration and Review of FY16-17 Budget and Recommendations of 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Budget Articles**

Town Manager Willard – Reviewed the adjustments in the budget to date:

a) **Adjustments – Expenses**

- - \$2,400 – decrease Administration Payroll (2 Selectmen Stipends)
- + \$4,400 – increase Fire Dept Payroll: Chief put on Salary (step 1 of 2 step adjustment to bring this position's pay in line with the Compensation Study, step 2 will be \$6,266 and will bring it consistent with the other Department Heads)
- - \$350 – decrease Fire Dept Building Maintenance (type in 1st draft)
- + \$220 – increase Fire Chief Salary – ICMA
- + 337 – increase Fire Chief Salary – SS match
- - \$4,148 – decrease Merit Increases line item for those whose salary is over 100% of the

* Items taken out of order

Compensation Study (\$841 total for 5 employees) there will be no increase as well as those already budgeted a pay adjustment – 0.6% increase for those not already budgeted a pay adjustment and/or under 100% of Compensation Study average

- + \$5,000 – increase Employee Training – for Human Resource Consultant training

b) Adjustments – Revenues

- + \$4,579 – increase estimated Municipal Revenue Sharing from \$130,000 to \$134,579
- + \$18,000 – increase estimated CEO Fees from \$75,000 to \$93,000

c) Adjustments – NET

- - \$19,520
- These adjustments result in the current proposed municipal budget being \$279,538 under the LD1 levy limit.
- The FY 2016-17 net municipal budget as proposed is \$52,489 less than the FY 2015-16 approved net municipal budget.

d) Selectmen's Changes to Town Warrant:

- - \$4,656 – decrease to RTP Bus under TIF, making the TIF total \$196,312
- + \$15,000 – increase to Health Insurance, making the Insurance total \$515,480
- - \$4,000 – decrease to the Library, making the Library total \$56,500
- These further adjustments result in the current proposed municipal budget being \$270,388 under the LD1 levy limit.
- The FY 2016-17 net municipal budget as proposed is \$43,339 less than the FY 2015-16 approved net municipal budget.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen 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 Selectmen, 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 Selectmen recommend Article 10.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.
Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 11: To see what date taxes will be due and to set an interest rate for unpaid amounts.

The Selectmen recommend 1st half to be due October 31, 2016 and 2nd half to be due April 30, 2017 with interest at seven percent (7%) on any unpaid balances.

The Selectmen recommend Article 11.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.

Mr Gosselin – Taxes fall in April at the same time as Federal Taxes are due and could cause a hardship on some people.

Town Manager Willard – They are the dates that have been historically done.

Mr Walker – You could move the April to March.

Chairman Olsen – That would be a problem for escrow accounts.

Town Manager Willard – It is also a question of cash flow.

Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at seven percent (7%) for the fiscal year.

The Selectmen recommend Article 12.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Crockett.

Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of Town owned personal property with value not to exceed \$35,000.

The Selectmen recommend Article 13.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.

Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to borrow from or appropriate from undesignated fund balance (surplus) as they deem advisable to meet the unanticipated needs of the community that occur during the fiscal year with amount not to exceed \$75,000.

The Selectmen recommend Article 14.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.

Mr Willard – How often has it been used?

Selectman Bruno – Some years.

Town Manager – This past year we used it a few times, but most years it is not used.

Chairman Olsen – It needs to be approved at a regular Selectmen's Meeting.

Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen, for the fiscal year 2016 - 2017, 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 Selectmen.

The Selectmen recommend Article 15.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Crockett.

Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 16: 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 Selectmen recommend Article 16.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Crockett.

Chairman Olsen – I thought we discussed removing C above because it is a school responsibility.

Selectman Bruno – It is the town's responsibility to make sure the roads are clear, not the school's.

Town Manager Willard – It is rare that we have needed to do this.

Mr Crockett – I think we would do it if needed even if C above was not there.

Town Manager Willard – If we needed to do it we would, even if it were not in the budget.

6-0 with 1 abstained. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 17: 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.

The Selectmen recommend Article 17.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.

Mr Richards – We don't pay them interest? Are there many of these?

Finance Director Yates – Yes.

Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$196,312 from the Pipeline/RT 302 Tax Increment Financing District for FY 2016 - 2017 projects proposed in the Tax Increment Financing District Development Program.

Note: Included in this item are:

Raymond-Casco Historical Society	\$ 1,800
RWPA Milfoil Program	\$ 20,000
GPCOG Annual Dues	\$ 4,436

The Selectmen recommend Article 18.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Walker.

Mr Walker – This is where the bus comes up and I think it is important to verbalize on this. I think the Select Board's recommendation of \$5,000 is appropriate given the ridership. The Select Board made a good point that operating this bus is not RTP's expertise. I was contacted by someone whose daughter travels on the bus 3 or 4 times per week to McCauley HS. This is a good example of how we fit into the greater lakes region. I think it has a value. Could we add more detail into the included above?

Town Manager Willard – It would need to be noted for next year for the Selectmen to approve. This warrant has already been approved.

Chairman Olsen – Historically the items listed were those new, not the same as last year. The details are in the report.

Town Clerk Look – The Selectmen have already voted on the warrant and it can not be changed without a vote of the Selectmen.

Chairman Olsen – We have had this discussion on the bus – what amount should be in there, what amount shouldn't be in there. I am online with Mike from the standpoint of you are either buying into the service or you are not. My concerns are that the bus has several issues that are not being addressed. As in I don't see in there any plan to accrue for a future bus for when the one they have now dies, I don't see a full maintenance schedule. You have a bus that is now 3 years old (we replace school busses on a 4 to 7 year cycle) and depending on what they are doing they will be seeing as much mileage as a school bus. As they increase ridership, what happens when that bus dies? Where is their back-up plan? I don't see anything in the data we have gotten from them that addresses that. We have a situation where if this goes to Town Meeting there is no means for them to say we should fund this at the full amount unless the Budget-Finance Committee recommends the full amount. If we do that and the Town votes for the higher amount I would make it incumbent on RTP to come back with some answers to those questions of how we can go forward in the future. My \$0.02.

Mr Bullock – On the budget summary produced on February 12th there seems to be \$500 missing.

Finance Director Yates – There was an adjustment.

Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$458,426 for the Administration account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 19.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.
Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$56,261 for the Assessing account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 20.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.

Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$102,900 for the Code Enforcement Department account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 21.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Richards.
Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$23,615 for the Town Hall account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 22.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.
Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$515,480 for the Insurance account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 23.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Crockett.
Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,000 for the General Assistance account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 24.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.

Mr Richard – We are getting reimbursed for this?

Mr Walker – It is more of a match.

Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$184,271 for the Technology Department account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 25.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Bullock. Seconded by Mr Gosselin.
Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$41,488 for the Community Development account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 26.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.
Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$684,221 for the Fire/Rescue Department account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 27.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Walker. Seconded by Mr Crockett.

Mr Gosselin – I will recuse myself from this vote, but I do support the article.

6-0 with 1 recused. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$16,222 for the Animal Control account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 28.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.

Mr Crockett – How are we doing with this year's expenses?

Town Manager Willard – We had a run on stray cats and that seems to be under control.

Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$21,816 for the Infrastructure account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 29.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.
Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$690,790 for the Public Works account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 30.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Crockett.
Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$316,262 for the Solid Waste account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 31.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.

Mr Walker – With the tipping fees going up we need to remind citizens that it is a benefit to the Town and therefore tax rates to increase recycling. I will try to put together some material to go on the TV channel.

Town Manager Willard – MWAC’s new director is trying to diversify the plant to offset costs. MWAC is a mass burn plant and has proven to be reliable and efficient. They have not needed to go to bonding, nor do they expect to.

Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,841 for the Employee Compensation and Training account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 32.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.

Mr Walker – I want to commend the Selectmen for doing this. This is innovative and it is great that we are investing in something that will have huge payoffs.

Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$27,164 for the Cemeteries account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 33.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.

Ms Duchaine – How did it go from \$20,000 to \$27,000?

Chairman Olsen – The numbers reflect the actual figures for mowing broken out by account.

Mr Walker – The mowing on the 302 Corridor has been reduced due to the breakdown.

Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,788 for the Parks & Recreation account.

Included are:

Materials, maintenance, equipment	\$ 2,500
Contract Services	\$ 8,688
Raymond Rattlers Snowmobile	\$ 1,600
Raymond Baseball/Softball	\$ 1,000
Agawam mowing/soccer	\$ 2,000

The Selectmen recommend Article 34.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.

Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$56,500 for the Raymond Village Library.

The Selectmen recommend Article 35.

Motion to recommend that article above be increased to \$60,500 by Mr Walker. Seconded by Mr Crockett.

Mr Richards – I see people saying that the Library is a community necessity and that you should double what is being given to the Library. What I see is that we and the Selectmen are not addressing the Library's mid-term and long-term needs. We are going on what they have done in the past and we are fortunate that we have dedicated people that have done this, but yes Joe I know this is a private organization (maybe it should not be). Maybe we could have some special arrangement where the Town of Raymond pays for the infrastructure, utilities, or something, so we don't put them in the situation where it is 50-50 donations. I can tell you there are only so many donations out there. I have gotten requests for donations from the Fire Department, the Library, from everyone. I'm not sure that if I asked the Library to raise their fund raising goals that they would be able to unless you have a couple of very generous donors, who happen to be wealthy, I am not sure it is realistic for the mid and long term goals. What I am suggesting is that next year we look at coming up with some special arrangement with the Library where we can address some things. From what I can see the whole community supports the Library and we need to support the Library. If we have to change it from a private organization and make a special arrangement with the Library, we have a special arrangement with a lot of things, so why not the Library? So I was going to make the recommendation to give the Library the money we did not give to the bus or something. I think they are really trying, they are getting reorganized, let's give them time to do that and let's help them. I really think from the community side the Library is very important. It is something we should be looking at – how can we help the Library instead of saying you have to go raise more money. And I know the history of it now, and I am say that we know what we need to look at – what is the best for the Town of Raymond. I would recommend that we look at how we can approach better funding the Library in the future years.

Chairman Olsen – The problem that you have there is you are now from what you just said is that you are asking the Town to go in and run a private organization. That is not in the Town's purview.

Mr Richards – I understand. It never should have been a private organization. The Town has save hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years because the Library had the volunteers. We've gotten off pretty cheap as a Town I think. So if we really look at it, I am trying to address the future of the Library as compared to ...

Chairman Olsen – What you are trying to do is act as the Library Board. You are not and we are not. What you are suggesting is that we usurp the Library Board. The Library Board made the determination that they want to be private. If at any point they step back and say we no longer want to be private, then we could take this over and that opens up that whole discussion. But at this point the Library Board says they want to remain private and come to us for support which is fine. It is not as black and white as you are saying.

Mr Richards – I understand. Have we, apparently we are not, are we still imposing a 50-50 split with what they raise?

Chairman Olsen – That was a suggestion and is a bit of a misnomer. It was never said it would be a 50-50 split. What was said is that we really shouldn't be subsidized more than 50% while it is a private organization. It was never that they should take their budget and

divide it in half.

Mr Richards – My main point here is that we as the Budget Committee and the Selectmen need to address the Library, and if the answer is that it is not our problem until they come to us, OK, but I think we are failing in not addressing some real community concerns out there.

Mr Walker – I think one of the things that we can do is suggest to the Library that they think through that mid- term and long-term and what is that approach going to be. As a funding source it is a subject we would be interested in hearing more about in the future. 3 quick points:

- First, the Library is in transition. They have finances that they have presented to us that are not as buttoned up as we would like. We all know that. I think they are going to get there with the people that they have and the people involved. I think they are well intentioned and I believe they will find the resources they need to get the financial part more together. I don't think what anybody is saying is against anything the Library is doing. It is not all above board, but the finances were a mess as they were presented and I think they will get over that.
- Second, the 50% thing that you guys were talking about, at some point it was a suggestion with the idea being that if we went over 50%, then it really should be something of a Town function because we support if more than 50%. I agree that there is a place where we can go only so far in donations. I don't think there is a magic to 50%. I think it is an aspirational goal and clearly if it gets to a point where you are at a much higher percentage (whatever that number is), then you really do have to question whether or not it should stay a private organization. I don't think we should be held to that 50%.
- Third, is a really important point to send to the Library. One of the things that made me pause was the realization of the understanding that their endowment-savings has moved from around \$170,000 to about \$103,000. That really made my jaw drop that they have made that much in withdrawals. Clearly the Library has been operating under a "if we build it, they will come" and it has to be understood by the currently Library Board and the current Director that they need to manage within the fiscal constraints of reality, and that coming forward the members of this Board and the Select Board will be looking very carefully at the finances and numerics involved. Given where we are, given the best intentions, the volunteerism, the engagement of the Board in making the Library a great place, a huge resource to this community, is the reason why I made the motion that I did.

Mr Gosselin – I have frequently spoken in favor of the Library and I agree with both Brians' summations. I would like to see the option to the residents of Raymond to look at that number and pick that number. I think they have a lot of energy. There is a lot of support for your programs. I would support this increase as well.

Ms Duchaine – Last year they came to us and they wanted \$60,000 and then they said that is it all and that we won't be here next year, that was their words. This year they are coming back again and asking for another \$60,000. I am in favor for the Library, but like you said, they do not have all their numbers in a row on where they spent their money. It is private and basically they do not need to show any of us where this money goes. We are handing over \$60,000 to a private organization.

Chairman Olsen – I just want to correct one thing. It wasn't said that they weren't going to come back with a request this year, it was stated that they weren't going to have an increase like they asked for last year.

Ms Duchaine – They got \$60,000.

Chairman Olsen - \$55,000 last year. This year they came in with the figure they asked for

last year. What they had said was that they would not come in with an increase over what they asked for the year prior, not that they weren't going to come back.

Ms Duchanie – They were coming back, obviously, but they weren't coming back with that amount. That was a one shot deal they said.

Mr Walker – Deb, your point is well taken. As a private organization we have a fair amount of detail. If there is something else we need or would be important to know I think they would provide it. We know where the money is going in terms of where it is going as far as salaries, fund raising, expenses, where income is coming from ...

Ms Duchaine – The last time they were here they were \$10,000 off. Someone asked where the \$10,000 was and they did not know.

Mr Walker – I acknowledge that their spreadsheets need some improvement.

3-3. Motion defeated (Chairman Olsen did not vote and the ordinance states that motions are only approved by a majority of the committee's members, not members present. This means that at least 5 must vote for an item for it to pass.)

Motion to recommend \$56,500 by Mr Bullock. Seconded by Mr Richards.

Mr Bullock – I think we all agree that we are unable to put a lot of weight on the financial statements that have been presented to us and that is what we are relying our financial decision on. It is too bad, but we can not put a concrete block on a marshmallow. I think that the Library is making efforts and will continue to make efforts to strengthen up the numbers. Some of the items in there I really question, but that's their job, not our job. We can tell them what we expect to see, but for me I would base any decision like this on solid numbers. On the soft side of the discussion I would say that the Library is very important to the Town. I think it is a focal point for people of all ages to go. The days of going to the Library, taking out a book for 2 weeks and bringing it back are gone. The Library does a lot more than that, any community Library does more than that. I think if the Library seriously considers restructuring, getting rid of the non-profit status, I would encourage them to get a little more funding from us and tighten up the numbers.

Mr Walker – I have a procedural question. If we do not get the 5 votes what happens? How would it read on the warrant?

Chairman Olsen – It would read that the Budget-Finance Committee does not make a recommendation due to the lack of any majority vote.

Mr Bullock – I would assume that if my motion of \$56,500 is denied that someone else could put another number on the floor.

Chairman Olsen – Is it safe to assume that the Selectmen are open to the idea of a loan for the Library?

Selectman Bruno – I the Library came forth with a request we would then make that determination.

Chairman Olsen – If they were to do that it would relieve some of the burden of the budget for this year. Right now they have \$5,000 for infrastructure work that if they were taking a loan to do that, from the Town, at 0% or something.

Mr Bullock – I am uncomfortable with that. If we vote \$56,500 and then they go borrow additional \$5,000, then they are up to \$61,500 of Town money potentially. If we are going to

suggest that then we should recommend \$51,500 and let them borrow the remaining \$5,000.

Chairman Olsen – What I am looking at with this is the same thing we did with Tassel Top.

Town Manager Willard – Was the Tassel Top money start up money?

Chairman Olsen – Yes.

Mr Crockett – Tassel Top never came back to the Town for more money after that.

5-2 Motion carried.

ARTICLE 36: To see whether the Town will vote to carry forward any existing fund balance in the Capital Improvement Program (C.I.P.) account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 36.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Crockett.
Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$986,772 for the Capital Improvement account.

Included are:

Public Works Equipment Reserve	\$ 85,000
2013 Public Works Road Construction Bond Payment	\$ 236,000
Public Works Paving/Road Reserve	\$ 275,000
Municipal Facilities Maintenance/Improvements	\$ 25,000
2002 PSB Bond Payment	\$ 110,772
Fire Department Equipment/Facilities	\$ 150,000
Bond Payment for Fire Truck/Sand-Salt Shed	\$ 105,000

The Selectmen recommend Article 37.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Bullock. Seconded by Mr Gosselin.
Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$676,263 for the County Tax account.

The Selectmen recommend Article 38.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.
Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 39: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the total sum of \$1,625,579 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 Selectmen recommend Article 39.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.
Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept or reject grants, donations and/or gifts of money to the Town of Raymond and to expend monies donated for specific purposes.

The Selectmen recommend Article 40.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.
Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 41: 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, 2016 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
- Tree Growth Reimbursement
- General Assistance Reimbursement
- Veteran's Exemption Reimbursement
- State Grant or Other Funds

The Selectmen recommend Article 41.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Gosselin. Seconded by Mr Bullock.
Unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 42: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$6,800 from the Open Space Reserve Fund to be used for the purchase of property for the Raymond Community Forest by the Loon Echo Land Trust.

The Selectmen make no recommendation for Article 42.

Motion to recommend article above by Mr Walker. Seconded by Mr Crockett.

Mr Walker – I think when there is not a recommendation it raises a lot of questions. I understand why the Selectmen did what they did. When there is no recommendation it leads people to think there is something fishy. My personal opinion is that the Open Space monies which are collected from Tree Growth are there to promote Open Space and we would be hard to come up with a better example of preserving Open Space than the proposed Raymond Community Forest. The Conservation Commission said that they did not have anything else on the horizon for other opportunities to preserve Open Space. To me this seems like a good use of the funds.

Chairman Olsen – When the Open Space fund was set up back 10-12 years ago, there were no identified projects at that point. I think this should carry a recommendation. Essentially what they are doing is what we told them to do. They have identified a project and unless

we have objections to the project then it should be recommended.

Mr Richards – If you leave it like that people don't know the details and if you don't give them any recommendation what are they supposed to do?

Mr Bullock – If I remember right this cleans out the Open Space account?

Finance Director Yates – It leave around \$7.

Unanimously approved.

4) Public Comment

None

5) Committee Comment

Chairman Olsen – Thanks again to the Town and Department Heads for putting the budget together and getting us the information when we ask for it.

Mr Walker – I think Mr Crockett is departing our Budget-Finance Committee. He is not running for re-election. I for one would like to thank him for his many years. And Rolf I believe you are departing as well to run for another office in Town and I wish you well too. Thank you for all the guidance. How many years?

Chairman Olsen – 29 years.

Mr Walker – 29 years on the Budget-Finance Committee! I think that calls for a round of applause.

6) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:40pm by Mr Bullock. Seconded by Mr Walker.
Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L Look
Town Clerk