

Town of Raymond
First Session of Annual Town Meeting
Deliberative Session Minutes
February 1, 2020

To the inhabitants of the Town of Raymond, in the County of Rockingham, in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified to meet in the Raymond High School Cafeteria on **Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** to participate in the first session of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

The Town of Raymond First Session (Deliberative Session) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Raymond High School Cafeteria by Moderator Wayne Welch who led the session with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He thanked everyone for attending and introduced himself, Assistant Moderator Ed French, and Attorney Keriann Roman as Town Council from Drummond and Woodsum. Moderator Welch introduced and called upon the Board of Selectmen George Plante who introduced the other Board of Selectmen members as Vice Chairman Scott Campbell, Jack Barnes, and Kathleen Hoelzel. Selectman Christopher Long was not in attendance. Chairman Plante called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order. Moderator Welch introduced and called upon Town Manager Joseph Ilsley who introduced Finance Manager Julie Jenks and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Sharon Walls. Town Manager Ilsley proceeded to introduce Department Heads as Public Works Director Steve Brewer, Welfare Director Denise O'Grady, Library Director Kirsten Corbett, Recreation Director Michelle Weaver, Fire Chief Paul Hammond, Police Chief Michael Labell, , and Executive Assistant/Human Resources Deborah Intonti. Moderator Welch introduced and called upon Budget Committee Chairman Carol Watjus, who called the Budget Committee to order and in introduced the Budget Committee members as Vice Chairman Rani Merryman, Richard Mulryan, Michael DiTommaso, Secretary Christine Harris, School Board Representative Joseph Saulnier, and Board of Selectman Representative Jack Barnes. Moderator Welch acknowledged and thanked the Ballot Clerks for being at this session. He acknowledged the presents of the Supervisors of the Checklist and noted that due to the timing of deadlines of the Presidential Primary Election they would only be answering any questions and not registering anyone to vote nor changing any party affiliations. Moderator Welch proceeded to thank Selectman Hoelzel for her seventeen years of service as Moderator and her dedication to the community and the State of NH. Selectman Hoelzel received a standing ovation and round of applause. Moderator Welch stated that an orange colored voting card would be used for voting at this session. Moderator Welch stated the Moderator's Rules would be implemented for this session and proceeded to read the Moderator's Rules.

Moderator Welch read Article 1.

Warrant Article 1– Elected Officials:

To Select by Non-Partisan Ballot

Two (2) Selectmen for 3-year terms

One (1) Budget Committee Member for a 3-year term

One (1) Planning Board Member for a 1-year term

Two (2) Planning Board Members for 3-year terms

Two (2) Ethics Committee Members for 3-year terms

One (1) Trustee of Trust Funds for a 3-year term

One (1) Library Trustee for a 3-year term

One (1) Supervisor of the Checklist for a 6-year term

One (1) Town Moderator for a 2-year term

One (1) Treasurer for a 3-year term

One (1) Town Clerk for a 3-year term

To Jane Bailey's inquiry, Moderator Welch stated that there is an opening for the Planning Board position for a 1-year term and for one of the two open positions for the Ethics Committee for a 3-year term. He stated that anyone could undertake a write-in campaign.

There being no further inquiries, Moderator Welch received a motion from Jonathan Wood and seconded by John Beauviliers to place Article 1 on the ballot on March 10, 2020 as written with the candidates included. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Moderator Welch stated the next three articles are zoning articles and cannot be amended, but there could be inquiries for clarity and understanding.

Moderator Welch received a motion to accept Article 2 for discussion from Jonathan Wood and a second from Kevin Pratt. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Plante presented Article 2.

Warrant Article 2 – Zoning Amendment- Section 2.1 Pre-Existing, Non-Conforming Lots:

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: To add a new subsection 2.1.3 to prohibit making pre-existing, non-conforming lots more non-conforming by any changes to lot area, frontage, setbacks, or other dimensional requirements of this Ordinance.

Recommended by the Planning Board

To June Dickerson's inquiry, Planning Board Chairman Jonathan Wood responded this amendment would be placed in the Zoning Ordinance for clarification. He further stated there is relief through the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

With an affirmative vote by voting cards, Moderator Welch declared Article 2 to be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Plante presented Article 3.

Warrant Article 3 - Zoning Amendment- Sections 13.1 Definitions and 14.1 Allowed Uses Table:

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: To add two new definitions 1) Dump: "A land site used primarily for the disposal by dumping, burial, burning, or other means, and for whatever purposes, of garbage, sewage, trash, refuse, junk, discarded machinery, vehicles or parts thereof, and other waste, scrap, or discarded material of any kind" and Landfill: "A disposal site in which refuse and earth, or other suitable cover material, are deposited and compacted in alternating layers of specified depth in accordance with an approved plan." (NOTE: Adding these definitions will result in a re numbering of the definitions). Further to prohibit all landfills/dumps/sanitary landfills in any zone.

Recommended by the Planning Board

Moderator Welch received a motion to accept Article 3 for discussion by Jonathan Wood and a second by June Dickenson. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

To June Dickerson's concerns, Planning Board Chairman Jonathan Wood responded: 1. Septic is covered under the State of NH's subsurface disposal. 2. Two or three unused vehicles are allowed on a property and he addressed prohibiting discarded machinery. 3. Composting is not an issue here.

To Jane Bailey's concerns, Planning Board Chairman Jonathan Wood responded regarding excluding allowing farm animals that manure management is covered under the State of NH. He stated that livestock is covered in the Zoning Ordinance, and he encouraged attendance at Public Hearings.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 3 to be place on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch received a motion to accept Article 4 for discussion by Jonathan Wood and a second by Joyce Wood. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Plante presented Article 4.

Warrant Article 4 - Zoning Amendment-Section 6.1 Sign Regulations:

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the planning board for the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows: To amend Section 6.1.4.2 to subject signage in the Commercial 3 East and West (C3E and C3W) zones to the Ordinance's sign regulations.

Recommended by the Planning Board

To June Dickerson's concerns, Planning Board Chairman Jonathan Wood stated that signage as part of this zone was neglected, therefore, this article is for inclusion.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 4 to be place on the official ballot.

Warrant Article 5– Operating Budget/Default Budget:

Shall the Town of Raymond vote to raise and appropriate as an Operating Budget, not including appropriations by Special Warrant Articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **Eight Million, Six Hundred Eighty-Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Twelve Dollars (\$8,687,412)**

Components of the budget include:

\$ 7,780,265 Town Operating Budget
\$ 907,147 Water Department Operating Budget
\$8,687,412 Total

Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **Eight Million, Eight Hundred and One Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty-Three Dollars (\$8,801,633)** which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Raymond or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Components of the budget include:

\$ 7,825,008 Town Default Budget
\$ 976,625 Water Department Default budget
\$ 8,801,633 Total

Note: This operating budget Warrant Article does not include appropriations contained in any other Warrant Article.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: Town Proposed Operating Budget \$5.468

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact Town Proposed Default Budget \$5.589

Moderator Welch presented Article 5.

A motion to accept Article 5 for discussion was made by Joyce Wood and seconded by Bob Gagnon. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Moderator Welch called upon Selectman Barnes who stated this is the second year for a projected Municipal tax cuts and the default budget is more. He praised the Town Manager, staff, and Budget Committee.

There being no discussion and with an affirmative vote by voting cards, Moderator Welch declared Article 2 to be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch recognized Cheryl Killam who made a motion and Susan Hilchey seconded to restrict reconsideration on Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Campbell presented Article 6.

Warrant Article 6 – Capital Improvements:

Shall the Town of Raymond vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Hundred, Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$345,000)** to be deposited into previously established Capital Reserve Funds (listed below) and to apportion this sum among the several funds as listed below, naming the Board of Selectmen as agents thereof?

General Government Buildings Maintenance & Improvements	\$ 120,000
Highway Department Vehicle Repair & Replacement	\$ 50,000
Highway Department Heavy Equipment	\$ 30,000
Bridge & Culvert	\$ 82,000
Sidewalks	\$ 0
Master Plan Updates	\$ 0
New Town Facilities	\$ 0
Library	\$ 0
Police Department & Dispatch Equipment, Vehicle, & Facilities	\$ 0
Fire Department Equipment and Vehicle	\$ 30,000
Recreation Department Equipment, Vehicles & Facilities	\$ 0
Parks Equipment & Facilities	\$ 33,000
TOTAL TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	\$ 345,000

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.363

A motion was made by Michael Ditommaso and seconded by June Dickerson to present Article 6 to the floor for discussion. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

To June Dickerson’s inquiry, Town Manager Ilsley responded the amounts that are in each fund are as of Dec. 31, 2019.

There being no discussion and with an affirmative vote by voting cards, Moderator Welch declared Article 6 be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch recognized Cheryl Killam who made a motion and seconded by Arlene French to restrict reconsideration on Article 6. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Plante presented Article 7.

Warrant Article 7 – Capital Reserve Funds (Water Revenues):

Shall the Town of Raymond vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000)** to be deposited into previously established Capital Reserve Funds (listed below) and to apportion this sum among the several funds as listed below? These funds shall be paid by Water Revenues.

Construct, Repair & Maintain Town Water Treatment Facility	\$ 30,000
Water System Infrastructure	\$ 35,000
Water Storage Facilities	\$ 130,000
Water Department Utility Replace Vehicle	\$ 3,000
New Well Site Acquisitions	\$ 2,000
TOTAL TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUND (WATER REVENUES)	\$ 200,000

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.000

Points of Discussion • The exact same concepts described in Capital Improvement Warrant Article apply to this article with one key distinction ➤ There is no tax impact because the costs are built into water rates (paid by program users) • The cost savings netted out of the Water Department Budget have been reallocated here to increase Water capital investment by 185% without impacting the rate payer • Even with this increase the total appropriations for the Water Department

(Budget and Capital Improvement Warrant Articles) net a \$9,240 reduction in monies sought through rates to our residents (Users).

A motion was made by Joyce Wood and seconded by June Dickerson to move Article 7 to the floor for discussion. The vote by voter cards was in the affirmative.

There being no discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 7 to be place on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Hoelzel presented Article 8.

Warrant Article 8 – Mosquito Control:

Shall the Town of Raymond vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000)** for the purpose of controlling the adult mosquito population in the Town of Raymond? Methods to include, but may not be limited to, spraying bacterial insecticide into stagnant water for mosquito larvae control, and other reasonable steps to achieve adequate control.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.042

Selectman Hoelzel stated this article is brought forward each year to control mosquito population growth and to help health issues caused by mosquitos.

Moderator Welch put Article 8 to the floor for discussion.

To Jane Bailey's inquiry, Town Manager Ilsley responded the town has a certified company that follows environmental safety standards. He does not have the data of the exact chemicals used, but would get this for her from the service provider, if she wishes it. Attorney Roman added there are State regulations when close to wetlands or water bodies there are certain insecticides used so not to affect fish, etc.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 8 to be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Barnes presented Article 9.

Warrant Article 9 – Town of Raymond Scholarship Fund:

Shall the Town of Raymond vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000)** to be placed in the Town of Raymond Scholarship Fund for Raymond High School Senior Graduates and any Raymond resident attending their first year of college (established pursuant to Warrant Article 23 at the 2000 Town Meeting)? Said funds are to be administered by the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.003

Moderator Welch put Article 9 to the floor for discussion.

There being no discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 9 to be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Barnes presented and moved Article 10 to the floor for discussion. Arlene French seconded the motion.

Warrant Article 10 – 4th of July 2020 Community Event:

Shall the Town of Raymond vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000)** to help offset the expenses incurred associated with the 4th of July 2020 community event?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.003

Selectman Barnes stated this article is brought forward each year to offset the cost of the 4th of July festivities.

There being no discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 10 to be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch recognized Jonathan Woods’ motion and Selectman Barnes’ second to present Article 11 to the floor. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Moderator Welch called upon called upon and Selectman Barnes presented Article 11.

Warrant Article 11 – Social Services Agencies:

Shall the Town of Raymond vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000)** in support of the following?

Social Service Agencies	
HAVEN	\$ 4,175
Area Homecare and Family Services	\$ 4,000
Court Appointed Service Advocates	\$ 1,500
Child Advocacy Center of Rockingham County	\$ 2,000
Waypoint/ Formally Child and Family Services	\$ 6,000
One Sky Community Services	\$ 0
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	\$ 600
Raymond Coalition for Youth	\$10,000
Southern NH Services/Rockingham Community Action	\$ 3,978
Chamber Children’s Fund	\$ 3,000
Rockingham County Nutrition Program	\$ 3,747
Home Health & Hospice Care	\$ 1,000
Total	\$40,000

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen
Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.042

Last year the Board of Selectmen tested breaking the Social Services apart into 14 individual Warrant Articles, after community feedback these Warrant Articles have been re-consolidated into 1 Warrant Article. • One Social Service (Lamprey Health Care) was voted down last year and was not re-introduced into this year’s Warrant Article • Lamprey Health Care was reintroduced under a separate Citizen Petition • The total tax funding sought in 2019 for Social Services Warrant Articles was \$80,669, the request this year was \$90,322 • The Warrant Article shows all request and the Board of Selectmen’s recommended distribution • The Board of Selectmen capped the expenditure of this Warrant Article to \$40,000.

After comments and concerns, Town Manager Ilsley and Executive Assistant Intonti stated the Town’s website addresses information on all of the Social Services.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 11 to be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch recognized Cheryl Killam who made a motion and seconded by Susan Hilchey to restrict reconsideration on Articles 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. A vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Hoelzel made a motion and Ed French made a second to place Article 12 on the floor for discussion. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative. Selectman Hoelzel presented Article 12.

Warrant Article 12 – Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund (Fund 18):

Shall the Town of Raymond vote to raise and appropriate a sum certain of **Eight Hundred, Forty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$849,000)** for the purpose of administering the Pay as You Throw Program with said funds to come from the **Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund** also referred to as **Fund 18**? *Should this Warrant Article be defeated, the Town would not be able to continue with the Pay as You Throw Program due to the absence of legislative authority to legally access the funds. (Majority Vote Required)*

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen
Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.000

This Warrant Article is a “Housekeeping Warrant Article” brought forward under the recommendation of the N.H. DRA to address the procedural error regarding how the Town has been accessing the revenues in Fund 18 before 2019 • The revenue from Fund 18 is derived from bag sales, recycle bin sales and revenues received from the Transfer Station; all of which is currently used to pay the Town’s Pay as You Throw program • This is a Special Revenue Fund (SRF) and the Town requires authority from the voters to access these funds • ***This Warrant Article is entirely separate from the question of how we pay for the program; rather it allows access to the funds in the account*** • If passes (a Yes vote), there is no tax impact because this allows the Town to continue to have access to the Revenue generated and required to cover the cost of the “Pay as You Throw Program” Should this Warrant Article be defeated, the Town would not be able to continue with the Pay as You Throw Program in its current state, due to the absence of legislative authority to legally access the revenues deposited in this fund. • For clarification; there are three Warrant Articles which seek the authority to access the Special Revenue Funds (SRF); (this Warrant Article and Warrant Article 13 Shim and Overlay, and Warrant Article 23 Fire Utility Vehicle). None create a tax impact because it authorizes access to funds not generated through taxation. • Since 2019, this Warrant Article is brought forward each year to authorize access to Fund 18 as required by law.

To June Dickerson’s inquiry, Town Manager Ilsley responded regarding if this article fails. As stated in the Article, “the Town would not be able to continue with the Pay as You Throw Program in its current state, due to the absence of legislative authority to legally access the funds”. He also included that if this article fails there would have to be cuts from the Operational Budget to fund this program.

There being no more discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 12 be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Hoelzel made a motion and June Dickerson made a second to place Article 13 on the floor for discussion. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative. Selectman Hoelzel presented Article 13.

Warrant Article 13 – Shim and Overlay Special Revenue Fund:

Shall the Town of Raymond vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand, Seven Hundred, Two Dollars (\$253,702)** for road reconstruction and to authorize the withdrawal of **(\$253,702.41)** from the Shim and Overlay Special Revenue Fund created for this purpose. No amount to be raised by taxation. This is a non- lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Shim and Overlay work is complete or until December 31, 2022, whichever comes first. **(Majority Vote Required)**

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen
Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.000

This Warrant Article is brought forward each year to allow access to the State funds deposited in a Special Revenue Fund (SRF); because these funds come from the State there is no tax impact • This is a Special Revenue Fund (SRF) and requires authority from the voters to access these funds. • These State funds are combined with the Town funds (Warrant Article 14) and are primarily used to cover the cost of road reconstruction activities. • If fails (a No vote), the Town will be unable to access these State funds set aside for road work • For clarification; there are three Warrant Articles which seek the authority to access the SRFs (this Warrant Article and Warrant Article 12 Waste Disposal and Warrant Article 23 Fire Utility Vehicle). None create a tax impact because it authorizes access to funds not generated through taxation.

To Kevin Pratt’s inquiry, Attorney Roman responded that in order to get the Highway Block Grant the State of NH would have to know of the public roads in town and there would be other required information on the block grant application.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 13 be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Barnes made a motion and Bill Hoyt made a second to place Article 14 on the floor for discussion. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative. Selectman Barnes presented Article 14.

Warrant Article 14 – Road Reconstruction Projects:

Shall the Town of Raymond vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000)** for road reconstruction projects? This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the road reconstruction work has been completed or by December 31, 2022, whichever is sooner.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.369

To June Dickerson's inquiries, Public Works Director Brewer responded: 1. He informed that roads last generally for 25 years depending on the quality of the road base. 2. He stated the roads that have been repaired this past year and those that are on the agenda for this year. 3. He informed that do have equipment to repair pot holes, but not to pave the roads, therefore, contractors are hired.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 14 be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Hoelzel made a motion and Joe Saulinier made a second to place Article 15 on the floor for discussion. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative. Selectman Hoelzel presented Article 15.

Warrant Article 15– Establish Contingency Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a contingency fund pursuant to RSA 31:98-a for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred and One Thousand, One Hundred and Eighty-Two Dollars (\$101,182)** from the fund balance to be placed in this contingency fund. Such fund shall not exceed one percent (1%) of the amount appropriated by the town for town purposes during the preceding year excluding capital expenditures and the amortization of debt. Any appropriation left remaining in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. A detailed report of all expenditures from the contingency fund shall be prepared annually by the Board of Selectmen and published with their report. **(Majority vote required)**

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.00

Started in 2019 and is to be brought forward each year to allow current and future Operating Budgets to be reduced because it reduces budgeting year after year for unforeseen events • Allows budgets to be built on actual and anticipated expenses; rather than "in case something happens" • Allows for access to funds in the event of an emergency without creating a tax impact • Requires Board of Selectmen approval to access funds limited to contingencies • Funds used must be reported to the state at the end of the year; ensures strict accountability/oversight; no funds were used in 2019 • If funds are not required, then the money returns to the Unassigned Fund Balance • Examples for what the funds could be used for; if the activities/events below exceed funds available in the Operating Budget: ➤ Winter Operations (multiple major winter events) ➤ Response to a natural disaster ➤ Significant loss of capital infrastructure caused by an event or failure ➤ Unanticipated legal liabilities or expenses of the Town • This Warrant Article does not create a tax impact today or into the future because it allows access to funds already raised through taxation and revenue to be made available if required

To Kevin Pratt's statement, Town Manager Ilsley stated that Mr. Pratt is correct in that there is no tax impact for this article, Article 15 and he elaborated on the current established funds. Selectman Hoelzel referred to the back of the Warrant Article Overview handout that indicates an explanation of the terms of the established funds.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 15 be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch recognized Carol Watjus who made a motion and Reni Merryman seconded to restrict reconsideration on Articles 12, 13, 14, and 15. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Plante made a motion and Arlene French made a second to place Article 16 on the floor for discussion. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative. Selectman Plante presented Article 16.

Warrant Article 16 – Sick and Vacation Non-Union Expendable Trust Fund:

Shall the Town of Raymond vote to raise and appropriate the sum not to exceed **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000)** to be added to the Sick and Vacation Leave Non-Union Expendable Trust Fund (established pursuant to Warrant Article #25 of the 2004 Town Meeting) for the purpose of paying out accrued time upon leave of employment as indicated in the Town of Raymond Personnel Policy for employees? And further that said set amount to come from unassigned fund balance and no amount from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.000

There being no discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 16 be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Plante made a motion and Linda Zimmell made a second to place Article 17 on the floor for discussion. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative. Selectman Plante presented Article 17.

Warrant Article 17 – Sick and Vacation Union Expendable Trust Fund:

Shall the Town of Raymond vote to raise and appropriate the sum not to exceed **Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000)** to be added to the Sick and Vacation Leave Union Expendable Trust Fund (established pursuant to Warrant Article #14 of the 2002 Town Meeting) for the purpose of paying out accrued time upon leave of employment as indicated in the Town of Raymond Personnel Policy? And further that said set amount to come from unassigned fund balance and no amount from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.000

There being no discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 17 be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Campbell made a motion and Susan Hilchey made a second to place Article 18 on the floor for discussion. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative. Selectman Campbell presented Article 18.

Warrant Article 18 - Elderly Exemption Increase:

To see if the Town will increase the income limits for the Elderly Exemptions from property tax in the Town of Raymond by **three percent (3%)**. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least three (3) consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least five (5) consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than **(\$31,260)** or if married a combined net income of less than **(\$42,385)** and own net assets not in excess of **(\$72,100)** excluding the value of the person's residence.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.016

This Warrant Article is brought forward as a continuing effort to readjust the Elderly Exemption rates est. in 2007 and updated in 2019 • The limits are requested to increase 3% over the amount established in 2019 > \$30,350.00 to \$31,260.00 (single) (+\$910.00 or 3%) > \$41,150.00 to \$42,385.00 (couple) (+\$1,235.00 or 3%) • This Warrant Article also raise for the first time since 2007 the net assets limit by 3% > \$70,000.00 to \$72,100.00 (+\$2,100.00 or 3%) • This Warrant Article will need to be brought forward each year to keep pace with the cost of living.

To Jane Bailey's inquiries, Town Manager Ilsley informed the town would not know updated information regarding mortgages, and there are approximately 40 people on this program, and he will verify this amount and get it posted. He further stated this amount is increased from last year due to after reviewing the elderly debt payment issues.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 18 be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m. for lunch break.

Moderator Welch reconvened the meeting at 12:15 a.m.

Moderator Welch recognized Joseph Saulinier who announced that the Raymond High School Penguin Plunge for Special Olympics that occurred today with 163 participants raised \$45,462. Last year the amount raised was \$26,000. He added they were Number 1 in the State of NH again. There was a round of applause.

Moderator Welch called upon and Selectman Plante made a motion and a resident made a second to place Article 19 on the floor for discussion. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative. Selectman Plante presented Article 19.

Warrant Article 19– Disabled Veterans Credit Increase:

To see if the Town will increase the optional residential property tax credit for One Hundred Percent (100%) Permanently and Totally Disabled Veterans as determined by the Department of Veteran Affairs and their surviving spouse, from **Two Thousand Dollars (\$2000)** to **Two Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500)**. **(Majority vote required)**

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.011

This Warrant Article is brought forward as part of an anticipated 4-year effort to incrementally raise the Disabled Veteran Credit from \$2,000 to the State of New Hampshire’s allowed \$4,000 • This Warrant Article will need to be brought forward to increase this credit at \$500 per year until the \$4,000 limit is achieved (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023) • On average, there are approximately 20 Veteran Homeowners in the Town of Raymond who meet the criteria established by this exemption.

There being no discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 19 be placed on the official ballot.

A motion was made by Carol Watjus and seconded by Cheryl Killam to restrict reconsideration on Articles 16, 17, 18, and 19. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Moderator Welch called upon Selectman Plante. Selectman Hoelzel made a motion and June Dickerson made a second to place Article 20 on the floor for discussion. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative. Selectman Plante presented Article 20.

Warrant Article 20 – Establish a 2020 One-Time or Cyclic Procurement Capital Reserve Fund:

To see if the Town will vote to establish an Operational Budget One-Time or Cyclic Procurement Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for purpose of stabilizing the Town’s Operational Budget and offset the tax impact of one-time or cyclic operational budget purchase needs and to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred and Fifty-Four Thousand, Four Hundred Dollars (\$154,400)** to be placed in this fund. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount will be raised through future taxation. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. **(Majority Vote Required)**

Replacement of Town Telecommunication System	\$ 15,000
Assessing Software Update	\$ 15,000
2020 Presidential Election Year Budget Impact	\$ 15,500
Town Re-Evaluation	\$ 60,000
Town Energy Efficiency (Building Energy Conversion)	\$ 18,900
Legal Expenses and Settlements	\$ 30,000

TOTALS TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUND **\$ 154,400**

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.000

This Warrant Article is brought forward as an effort to stabilize the budget and reduce taxation by removing one-time or cyclic cost out of the Operational Budget • The funds used to cover these items will be from the funds not expended from the previous year’s Operational Budget balance and Excess Revenues that would have gone into the Unassigned Fund Balance. No part funding is coming from future taxation and creates no tax impact • This initiative removed \$154,400 from taxation and is estimated to have helped reduce the municipal tax rate by -\$0.164 • This Warrant Article will be brought

forward each year with differently identified items as part of the Board of Selectmen's strategy to reduce the Municipal Tax Rate.

To June Dickerson's inquiries, Town Manager Ilsley responded that the re-evaluation is contracted and the CRF needs to be increased. Re-evaluations are State mandated. He responded that the legal expenses are unknown liabilities, and he elaborated on the existing ongoing legal issues.

To Kevin Pratt's inquiries, Town Manager Ilsley responded that the legal expenses are here and in the CRF, and if the funds are not used here this year, the balance would revert back to the CRF and stay there to be used for next year. He further responded that the total current amount of legal expenses is \$47,600, however, this would include if there are any legal issues within the ZBA.

To John Beauvillier's inquiry, Town Manager Ilsley explained that a Town re-evaluation is mandated at least every five years by State law. Town Council Roman further explained the State Constitution and State Law require to re-evaluate properties in terms of market value and for the assessment of properties to be in line with the State and the Nation. The process is very involved.

To Kevin Pratt's inquiries and concerns, Town Manager Ilsley informed that the Town Energy Efficiency (Building Energy Conversion) is not in any other line. He went into detail including how this line would positively affect town buildings. Regarding LED lights, he explained including it's a reduced flat rate and the \$18,900 is being matched by PSNH. Town Manager Ilsley further informed that there are several past and current litigations that need to be addressed as well as the ongoing power companies suits.

To Ted Mikolysi's inquiry, Town Manager Ilsley stated the breakdown of the tax rate and explained how it is established by the Department of Revenue. He included the reason for the delay in all of the State's towns 2019 tax rates from the State was due to the State's finalization of their budget.

To Jane Bailey's inquiry, Moderator Welch explained that the reason for the extra amount for this year's elections is due to it reflexes the cost of the extra elections.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 20 be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch recognized Selectman Barnes who made a motion and Arlene French seconded to move Article 21 to the floor for discussion. Selectman Barnes presented Article 21.

Warrant Article 21 – Establish Road Revitalization Capital Reserve Fund:

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Road Revitalization Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for purpose of supporting the Town's five-year strategic initiative to upgrade and render safe the Town's road infrastructure systems and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000)** to be placed in this fund. These funds are to be used in conjunction with the funds received from the Road Reconstruction fund to return the Town Roads to a maintainable condition. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount will be raised through future taxation. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. **(Majority Vote Required)**

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.000

This Warrant Article is brought forward as part of the Board of Selectman's multi-year strategy to provide the funding needed to address the road infrastructure issues • The funds used to cover these items will be from the funds not expended from the previous year's Operational Budget balance and Excess Revenues that would have gone into the Unassigned Fund. No part funding is coming from future taxation and creates no tax impact • These funds will be in addition to all other funds sought to repair and maintain the Roads • It is anticipated this Warrant Article will be brought forward each year until the Roads are on a maintenance cycle.

To June Dickerson's inquiry, Public Works Director Brewer responded that a road maintenance cycle is the work done on roads prior to getting to the state where have to be reconstructed. There has been approximately 40 roads that have been maintained in the past 15 years, and these are the roads that are being focused on for the revitalization effort.

To Kevin Pratt's inquiries, Town Manager Ilsley respond that, yes, the Unassigned Fund balance can be used to reduce taxes, however, it's an unofficial reduction in taxes, as it's best to use the Unassigned Fund balance for one time liabilities for tax items that know will occur. He stated that getting on a maintenance cycle saves and, yes, would contract out.

Bob Gagnon thanked those for the road revitalization plan.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 21 be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch recognized Selectman Hoelzel who made a motion and Arlene French seconded to move Article 22 to the floor for discussion. Selectman Hoelzel presented Article 22.

Warrant Article 22 – Establish Facility Revitalization Capital Reserve Fund:

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Facility Revitalization Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for purpose of supporting the Town's five-year strategic initiative to renovate and bring up the Town's facility infrastructure to code, safety and energy standards and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Hundred and Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$290,000)** to be placed in this fund of this amount \$145,519 is to come from unassigned fund balance (which represents funds received from the State of New Hampshire's One-Time Municipal Infrastructure Grant in 2019 and the remaining \$144,481 to come from anticipated Municipal Infrastructure grant to be received in 2020 with no amount to be raised through taxation. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. **(Majority Vote Required)**

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.000

This Warrant Article is brought forward as part of the Board of Selectman's multi-year strategy to provide the funding needed to address the facility infrastructure issues • The majority of the focus for this first year funding effort is to acquire the funds needed to remodel the already existing Torrent Hose Company (Old Fire House) into an energy efficient, usable and accessible Town Administration Building and eliminates the need to purchase new lands or facilities to build a new Town Hall ➤ Total cost of the Torrent Hose Company (old Fire House) remodel will be determined in fall 2020 after the completion of the architecture and engineering study • The funds identified this year are to come from a two-year State Capital Grant and no part of the funding is coming from future taxation and creates no tax impact • These funds will be in addition to all other funds sought to repair and maintain the facilities • It is anticipated this Warrant Article will be brought forward each year until the facility requirements reach the required funding levels.

To June Dickerson's inquired how many years would it take to see a cost savings for energy efficiency based on how much money is spent to actually do the project. Town Manager Ilsley responded that the cost savings would be in looking at other initiatives other than building a new facility, but are not going to have deductions to equate the cost of the project.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 22 be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch recognized Selectman Hoelzel who made a motion and seconded by Cheryl Killam to restrict reconsideration on Articles 20, 21, and 22. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Moderator Welch recognized Selectman Plante who made a motion and Susan Hilchey seconded to place Article 23 on the floor for discussion. Selectman Plante presented Article 23.

Warrant Article 23 – Fire Department Utility Vehicle Special Revenue Fund (Fund 17):

Shall the Town of Raymond vote to raise and appropriate a sum certain of **Forty-Five Thousand, Two Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$45,215)** for the purpose of purchasing and outfitting one (1) Fire Department Utility Vehicle with said funds to come from the **Fire Department Utility Vehicle Fund? (Majority Vote Required)**

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.000

There being no discussion, Moderator Welch declared Article 23 be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch recognized Susan Hilchey who made a motion and Kevin Pratt seconded to place Article 24 on the floor for discussion.

Warrant Article 24– Citizen Petition: Lamprey Health Care Senior Transportation Program:

To see if the Town of Raymond will raise and appropriate the amount of \$6,500 for the Lamprey Health Care Senior Transportation Program?

This is a citizen petition warrant article.

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee

Estimated 2020 Tax Impact: \$0.007

With no objection from the floor, Moderator Welch allowed Lauren Gaza, a representative for Lamprey Health Care, to present and speak to Article 24. She informed including what this transportation consists of to help seniors. She stated it is fully funded by municipal funding, and informed statistics regarding the amount of patients in Raymond that were served.

To several resident's concerns for and against Article 24, Ms. Gaza included stating that with a reduction it would be more difficult to maintain the level of care and service. She informed that this citizen's petition was being presented due to lack of communication to the Board of Selectmen and to the Budget Committee last year.

Town Council Roman verified the legality and stated that the petition was initiated by Lamprey Health Care and it has the signatures of the minimum of 25 registered voters.

Susan Hilchey, a Member At Large, for the Voter Information Project guide, informed there was detailed information in this guide.

Moderator Welch recognized Selectman Campbell who made a motion to move this question and Susan Hilchey seconded. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Moderator Welch declared Article 24 to be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch recognized Carol Watjus who made a motion and seconded by John Beauvillier to restrict reconsideration on Articles 23 and 24. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Moderator Welch recognized Bob Gagnon who made a motion June Dickersen to move Article 25 to the floor for discussion. There being no one to represent this article, Moderator Welch asked Chairman Plante to read it.

Warrant Article 25 – Citizen Petition: Ban of Plastic Bags by all Retail Businesses:

To see if the Town will vote to ban the use of plastic bags by all retail businesses in town that sell products and bags them in plastic by January 1, 2021.

This is a citizen petition warrant article.

To June Dickenson inquiry as to how this would be implemented, Town Manager Ilsley responded that the Town would partnership with the local businesses to develop strategies to reduce the uses. This would not be mandated but only advisory. Town Council Roma stated that this is legally unenforceable as there is no current State statute that gives towns the authority to ban plastic bags use.

There were several other residents with concerns for and against this article.

Moderator Welch recognized Selectman Plante who made a motion to move Article 25 and Arlene French seconded. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Moderator Welch declared Article 25 to be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch recognized June Dickerson who made a motion and Kevin Pratt seconded to place Article 26 on the floor for discussion. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Warrant Article 26 – Citizen Petition: Designation of Scenic Road:

To see if the Town of Raymond shall vote to designate as a scenic road Old Fremont Road and Extension, pursuant to RSA 231:157?

This is a citizen petition warrant article.

June Dickerson stated the primary petitioner, Anthony Dickerson, was not able to be present and he designated her to be his representative to speak on this article. She stated she also signed the warrant article petition. She stated several reasons why Old Fremont Road should be designated as a scenic road. She added she had copies of the RSA's regarding scenic roads.

Jane Bailey made a point of order and Moderator Welch read Article 26.

Several Old Fremont Road residents noted that no one who signed the Citizen Petition lives on Old Fremont Road and spoke against it, including reasons why their property along the road would be affected and indicated situations that there could be financial consequences. Also, there would be unwanted more traffic.

To Joe Saulnier's request, and Public Works Director Brewer stated that only if a road needed to be widened or any significant work would there be a cost.

Moderator Welch recognized Selectman Plante who made a Motion to Amend to Article 26 as follows:

"To see if the Town of Raymond shall vote to study designating as a scenic road Old Fremont Rd & Extension & to study the costs associated therewith."

Ted Janusz seconded the Motion to Amend Article 26 for discussion purposes.

Town Council Roman verified there can be an amendment to a citizen petition as long as it doesn't change the subject matter of the article, and "to study" doesn't change the subject matter of the article.

June Dickerson commented regarding that a study would be costly, who would be doing the study, and that a citizen petition should not be altered.

Jack Barnes spoke as a citizen commenting that a study is not necessary.

Residents of Old Fremont Road stated further reasons not to designate Old Fremont Road as a scenic road.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Welch called for a vote for the Amendment on Article 26. The vote by voting cards was in the negative.

Moderator Welch declared the original Article 26 to be placed on the official ballot.

Moderator Welch recognized Carol Watjus who made a motion and seconded by Cheryl Killam to restrict reconsideration on Articles 25 and 26. The vote by voting cards was in the affirmative.

Moderator Welch recognized Ted Janusz who thanked those that put together the hand out.

Moderator Welch announced that Sharon Walls is retiring after thirty-four years of service working for the Town of Raymond and he recognized Town Manager Ilesley who presented her with a bouquet of roses from a grateful community, friends and co-workers. She received a standing ovation and a round of applause.

Moderator Welch noted that Candidates Night would be held February 12, 2020 from 7: 00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Raymond High School Media Center. Snow date is February 13, 2020. For further information, contact Christina Vogal at 895-1523. He added that there is 3-year School Board position that no one has signed up for and he stated that anyone could undertake a write-in campaign.

Moderator Welch recognized Jane Bailey who inquired about a hard copy of a handout regarding the budget that was not available at this meeting. Town Manager Ilsley responded it was on the Town's website and at the Town Office.

Selectman Barnes commented negatively regarding the very few participants at this Deliberative Session.

Moderator Welch recognized Budget Committee Chairman Watjus who stated the Budget Committee would adjourn their meeting after the Deliberative Session is adjourned.

Moderator Welch recognized Board of Selectman Plante who made a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectman meeting. Selectman Hoelzel seconded the motion. The vote was in the affirmative.

There being no further business, Moderator Welch adjourned the 2020 Town of Raymond Deliberative Session at 1:55 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Sharon E. Walls
Town Clerk/Tax Collector