

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present: Member Citizens Sandy Ellis, Rani Merryman at 7:07, School Board Members Jaclyn Serrine, Joseph Saulnier, Selectmen Jonathan Wood and Jack Barnes. Jaclyn Serrine left meeting at 7:20.

Correspondence read from Doug Vogel, Neva Cole, Craig Wheeler, and Ellen Small. Then all questions were looked at and discussed. See Below

Appointment of Facilitators and Secretary

Motion: Jaclyn Serrine moved to nominate Neva Cole Co- Facilitator. Sandy Ellis seconded.

Motion: Jack Barnes moved to nominate Doug Vogel Co-Facilitator. Sandy Ellis seconded.

Motion: Sandy Ellis moved to nominate Joe Saulnier Secretary. Rani Merryman seconded.

All motions were voted on at the same time. Motions passed 6-0.

Joe Saulnier stated that all agendas and committee question should go through either the town or school so they may be put on a secure server.

Correspondence from/Questions Submitted by Craig Wheeler:

To all members, I am at the Primex conference and unable to attend your meeting. Here are my ideas/thoughts for consideration.

1. Continue to improve "transparency", "trust" and "confidence" in all functions of local government.
2. Prepare a 2018 operating budget that clearly represents the needs and requirements to move the community forward. Support and fund the efforts of the BOS, Budget Committee and the CIP program.
3. Address the wage and salary schedules to be more competitive and in line with similar size communities.
4. Outline and explain the Municipal Bond process and actual cost to the community.
5. Publicly acknowledge the need still exist for a new Police Station.

Correspondence from/Question Submitted by Doug Vogel:

Town of Raymond Resource Team

I do not believe we should be a sponsored/chartered School Board or Selectmen Committee, I recommend we be a team of Raymond Townspeople that includes School Board Members, Selectmen, and townspeople which utilizes the resources of the superintendent and town manager offices/staff. This will free up the team to work and communicate with more townspeople and not be perceived as having a School or Town political agenda.

I believe we should invoke another team name and gather others from "Our Town" to unite the townspeople towards common goals. One Unified Raymond Town.

The way I see the Tax dollars spent, I see a break out into some basic categories:

- Bond payments
- Operating cost (electric, snow removal, etc)
- Personnel contracts and benefits (wages, health, leave, etc)
- Vehicle CIP (trucks, loaders, etc)
- Building CIP (roofs, HVACs, etc)
- Misc (mosquito, scholarship, nonprofits)
- Infrastructure (roads, water, etc)

What is the priority of the townspeople? What do we cut so we can transfer the funds to other line items. Would we the town cut funding scholarship, sidewalks, and non-profits to pay for sewage, schools, or police?

Survey Questions to build on:

What is your long term Town priority?

- Property tax stabilization, increase town services, improve town Infrastructure,
- Improved school and town efficiencies

Does the town need sewage system to bring in business or stay a bedroom community?

Once existing Bonds are reduced/paid, what is your first priority? \_\_\_\_\_

Should the School and Town Master Plans be combined into one town long term goal?

Name top three items this Town Wide unification committee should focus on to help you and Raymond?

Correspondence from/Questions Submitted by Neva Cole:

Hello all,

I'm sad I can't be there at the meeting tonight. I'm happy to serve as facilitator or co-facilitator at future meetings if the need is there.

Here are my suggestions for survey questions if someone wouldn't mind sharing them with the group:

1. The town of Raymond has many underfunded projects. If you were to put your support, and your tax dollars behind a project, which would you choose. Please choose all that apply and in order of preference.

- a. Expansion of the Lamprey River Elementary School
- b. New building for the Raymond Police Department
- c. etc.
- d. etc.
- e. OTHER: Please explain - give the option for a write in answer.

2. The town of Raymond has many wonderful people living here and our resources vary from passionate parents, volunteers of all ages, businesses and more. How would you propose to use these shared resources to improve this community?

I had one suggestion that I wanted to float to the group. Have we ever thought about implementing a "voluntary town donation" that people could add onto any property tax bill or donate to on a regular basis? If we were to give people the option of donating to this community in a way that is

engaging and transparent, I think people might respond to it. Ideally I think it'd be wonderful to give people an option of specifying WHERE their money goes, and what projects they want their donation to go towards. I don't think we can raise all the money we'd need for specific projects, but it is a way for people to feel like they are contributing to projects in town that they are passionate about. By not making it mandatory, we may even get a better response. It's the psychology of "pay what you can" that drives up donation amounts, without putting pressure on people who cannot afford to donate. I think you'll even find that people who are saying they can't afford their taxes to go up, will still be willing to donate a small sum to a town project that they feel is worthy, especially if the amount and the direction of their donation is left up to them to decide.

If that sounds like an interesting idea to the group, then I might suggest adding this question to the survey:

3. Would you be interested in the town of Raymond setting up a system whereby any town resident could donate money towards specific underfunded projects? Would you consider donating to such non-mandatory funds?

Thank you all for your hard work and I hope you all have a Happy Mother's Day weekend!  
Cheers  
Neva Cole  
Raymond Resident

Questions Submitted by Jaclyn Sirrine

- 1) What do you believe the main focus of this committee should be?
  - a) Financial
  - b) Community Involvement / Feedback
  - c) Addressing overlapping needs between the town and school
  - d) New building development
- 2) What do you feel is the most important budgetary need for the Raymond Community?
- 3) What do you want to see within the Raymond Community for improvements?
  - a) Community Events
  - b) Updated Buildings
  - c) Parks & Recreations
  - d) New Development
- 4) Rank what you feel is the most priority in town for a major project?
  - a) Updated Town Offices
  - b) Updated / New Police Station
  - c) Updated Elementary School
  - d) Water Expansion
  - e) Facility Equipment
- 5) If you were able to volunteer your time for the Raymond Community, would you?

Yes: What would you do?

No: Why not?

Jacki stated that these would be a good collaboration for the town and school, in effect would save us money.

Questions Submitted by Jack Barnes:

- 1) Should the school board and selectmen meet quarterly to listen and answer any questions or concerns residents may have? Yes - No
- 2) Would you vote for an addition to the elementary school at a cost of 9.2 million dollars? Yes - No  
If no, is it the cost? Yes - No  
If no, is there a better solution? Yes - No  
If yes, what?
- 3) Would you vote for a new police station at a cost of 6.8 million dollars? Yes - No  
If no, is it the cost? Yes - No  
If no, is there a better solution? Yes - No  
If yes, what?
- 4) Would you vote for a million dollar bond to help upgrade the town roads? Yes - No
- 5) How would you replace town equipment?  
Bond  
Lease  
CIP  
Other
- 6) Would you do away with curbside trash pickup?

Questions Submitted by Rani Merryman:

- 1) Should all back taxes that are collected be put into the CIP to fund future building projects over \$2 million dollars?
- 2) Should the town subsidize / donate to any service or charity, such as the \$70,820 authorized in article 13 or should we be allowed to choose where their own charity dollars are spent?
- 3) Would you support a remodel to combine the elementary school into the middle school building in order to use the elementary school building as a municipal complex housing the police station and meeting offices for the town?
- 4) Would it be acceptable to increase the number of pupils per class in the elementary school from the current 14/15 in 1st and 2nd grade to no more than 20 in order to reduce the number of classrooms needed, consequently eliminating the portables?
- 5) Should the police detail fund be applied to the CIP as a means to fund future projects, limiting the frequency of purchasing police vehicles to no more than 1 per year for vehicles older than 4 years and directly replacing existing vehicles that will be taken out of service once replaced?

- 6) Should the garbage bag price be raised or lowered bi - annually as a means to fully cover the cost of collection and disposal?

Questions Submitted by Jonathan Wood:

1. New infrastructure and adequate budget to maintain existing & new
2. Keep Tax Rate Flat (Live within the budget)
3. Secure next well site - future planning
4. New Master Plan Chapter about town & school facilities
5. Closer cooperation pre-budget between town & school

Questions Submitted by Ellen Small:

1. From the items listed below, please choose the top three priorities that you believe Raymond should address. Put a #1 next your first choice; a #2 next to your second choice; and a #3 next to your third choice. Please fill in the blank next to "other" if you have a priority other than those listed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Replace Public Works Vehicles  
\_\_\_\_\_ Paint/Upkeep Water Towers  
\_\_\_\_\_ Build an addition to the Elementary School  
\_\_\_\_\_ Repair roads in Raymond  
\_\_\_\_\_ Build a new Police Station  
\_\_\_\_\_ Purchase property for a new Elementary School  
\_\_\_\_\_ Purchase a building for Town Hall  
\_\_\_\_\_ Purchase Fire Department Equipment and Vehicle  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. What would you be willing to do to help raise money for any of these projects? Please check your choice- you may choose more than one. Write in other ideas you may have.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pay more in property taxes  
\_\_\_\_\_ Add a \$5.00 increase to car registrations  
\_\_\_\_\_ Put any year end surplus into a savings plan  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. What other ideas do you have to create more efficiency in either or both the School District or the Town of Raymond?

Questions Submitted by Joe Saulnier:

- 1) What is the highest building priority for the town?

A: A new elementary school?  
B: A new police station?  
C: An expansion of the town hall?  
D: Leave things the way they are.

2) Where would you like to spend your tax dollars?

- A: Salaries and Benefits
- B: Building Infrastructure
- C: Road Infrastructure

3) Knowing that we have not saved the amount of money needed to pay for some larger items out of the CIP. Would you be willing to support a larger CIP warrant article to help us pay for future items? Ex: New roof, Schools, Police Stations, Trucks and Equipment.

4) Do you think we need sewage for the business district?  
Yes / No

5) If there was one thing you could change in Raymond, what would it be?

During discussion, Sandy Ellis expressed that she would like to see age categories at the top of the survey that way we know who is responding and where there answers fall. She also stated that she would like to see a question that asks how long you have lived in Raymond and how many more years you plan to stay in Raymond.

Rani Merryman asked if we should see if the town wants larger classrooms or if we should move 4th grade up to the Middle School. Joseph Saulnier stated that we have that discussion every year. There was also also an overall discussion years ago about class size before he was on the board. This year they looked at cutting a second grade teacher for next year, but determined that would put the last class of students that only had half day kindergarten at a disadvantage so they decided to keep it the way it is.

Rani Merryman also talked about replacing one or two police cars every year and nd the fund that we use for that.

Regarding funding the Donation Line. Should the town be giving these non profits a donations? Should we be able to choose where our money goes. Jack did state that we have this discussion every year and that the companies come forward with presentations every year when they ask for funds and that it is completely open to the public.

Rani Merryman asked if the salaries in Raymond are comparable to other towns our size. She asked if our administration salaries are close to that of other towns of our size.

Talking of the charge to the committee. Sandy Ellis stated that she would like to have the Chairman/Facilitator in charge of all questions that come through the committee.

Motion: Motion to Adjourn by Jack Barnes seconded by Jonathan Wood. Passes 5-0

Adjourned at 8:42 pm

Shared Resource Committee Meeting  
RHS Media Center  
May 11, 2017  
Minutes Page 7  
Approved June 22, 2017

Respectfully Submitted by:

Joseph Saulnier  
School Board Member