

Town Article 6 – Capital Improvements

This article will raise and appropriate \$345,000 for the purpose of funding the Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs) for the Town of Raymond. The CRFs are established in a variety of areas to purchase, repair, or maintain Town equipment and buildings that cost over \$20,000 or have a lifespan of at least 5 years.

The amount requested is the same as last year but distributed differently to address what are considered to be the Town's most urgent capital needs. General Government Buildings Maintenance & Improvements is increased to \$120,000.00, to be used primarily for renovations at Torrent Hose Company (old fire station next to Town Hall) to create additional Town administrative office space. Bridges and Culverts is increased to \$82,000 because the fund was "drastically depleted" (1) in 2019 to fix failed culverts and because replacement of bridges will be, "a high cost liability that will require increased funding over the long-term." (1) The Parks Equipment and Facilities CRF is increased to better maintain cemeteries and other Town parks.

Decreases are in the Highway Department, as purchases for a plow truck and heavy equipment were made in 2019 using unassigned fund balance at no new tax cost. (1) The decrease in the Police Department CRF relates to the Police Chief's recommendation to use the department's Detail Fund (2) to pay for law enforcement vehicles. The Recreation CRF is zero funded as there is no defined need for equipment or vehicles that is not covered in the operational budget. (1) The Fire Department Equipment and Vehicle CRF is decreased to \$30,000 as immediate needs will be met with the existing balance in the CRF (1).

Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.363 per thousand of tax valuation or \$72.60 on a \$200,000 home.

A YES vote raises \$345,000 to fund the CRFs in the Town Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

A NO vote raises no money to fund any CRFs in the Town CIP.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To provide long-term funding for major expenditures.
- To avoid potential bonding and increase tax rates.
- To remain current in price predictions due to rising costs.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Preference to bond major purchases.
- Disagree with any of the purposes of this fund.
- Consider this CRF to be adequately funded as is.

References:

1. Town Manager Joe Ilsley in an email, 1/16/20.
2. Extra Duty Details provide law enforcement services at construction sites, escort oversized loads, and other designated commercial assignments that are not related to the regular duties. <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/nhsp/fob/details-faq.html#A1>