

Town Article 33– Establish an Emergency Management Revitalization Capital Reserve Fund

This warrant article will establish and fund an Emergency Management Revitalization Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) with the purpose of improving the Town’s Emergency Response and Management Capabilities and enhancing the Town’s abilities to achieve National Incident Management Command and Control capabilities, as designated by the Federal Emergency and Management Agency (FEMA). (1) Building up these capabilities includes proper plans, training, equipment, and communications for a unified response to address emergencies. Additionally, this warrant article appropriates the sum of \$320,000 to be placed in this fund. The monies used to cover this item will be withdrawn from the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB). There is no new tax impact.

A YES vote creates an Emergency Management Revitalization CRF and sets aside \$320,000 from the UFB to support the effectiveness of the Town’s Emergency Response.

A NO vote would make any Emergency Management costs identified come from the Operational Budget in the year of the expense instead of from the fund balance.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- The Town’s dispatch console, used for communications and coordination in time of emergency, is in need of replacement. (2)
- To improve response to and management of disaster and emergency situations.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Consider the current response plan adequate to meet the Town’s needs.
- Would prefer the UFB is used for other purposes.

References:

1. The National Preparedness Goal defines what it means for the whole community to be prepared for all types of disasters and emergencies. The goal itself is succinct: “A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.” These risks include events such as natural disasters, disease pandemics, chemical spills and other man-made hazards, terrorist attacks and cyber attacks.
<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/goal>
2. The dispatch console is used for communications with and among Police, Fire and Emergency Management personnel and vehicles within Raymond, and with Mutual Aid communities.