

*Voting day is Tuesday, March 8*

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Guide  
for Local  
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RAYMOND

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PROJECT

*“A well informed  
voter has the greatest  
freedom of choice.”*

~ Raymond VIP Bylaws

2016

RAYMOND

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**This guide is provided** as a tool for RAYMOND VOTERS for use during the 2016 Town and School District Election Cycle. Please see our website at [WWW.RAYMONDVIP.ORG](http://WWW.RAYMONDVIP.ORG) for updates and new information as it becomes available.

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*See you at the polls at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School.  
Tuesday, March 8, 2016 7AM to 7PM*

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## SCHOOL WARRANT

### SCHOOL ARTICLE 1: SCHOOL CANDIDATES

The following Candidates' names will appear on the ballot according to a random selection process in accordance with RSA 656:5-a:

Choose **two (2)** School Board members for a three (3) year term expiring in 2019:

Andrea Peterson          Stephen Reardon          Joe Saulnier

### SCHOOL ARTICLE 2: LRES BOND

#### Elementary School Building Addition

*This article requires a 3/5 majority vote to pass.*

This article authorizes the Raymond School Board to raise eight million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$8,250,000) by issuing a twenty-year bond for the purpose of the construction, furnishing and equipping of an addition to Lamprey River Elementary School. (1)

The Raymond School District currently rents three detached 14-year-old portable temporary buildings with six classrooms for \$36,000 per year and owns two attached 32+-year-old portable temporary buildings with four classrooms, all located at Lamprey River Elementary School. The proposed project replaces both sets of portables with a two story, twelve classroom addition.

The project also includes building a middle school sized gymnasium, relocating the main entrance and front office spaces to an area between the existing building and addition and improving Nurse, Guidance and Special Education spaces. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved flood proofing will be installed on the existing building. The older of two septic systems will be replaced, and an underground 10,000 gallon oil tank will be installed. An energy efficient heating and cooling system is also included. The proposed construction would take place on the street side of the school above the 100 year floodplain, and the school will not need to be shut down to complete the renovations. (2)

The School Board intends to secure a 20-year bond at approximately 4.25% interest rate at an estimated average yearly cost to taxpayers of about \$.24 (twenty four cents) per thousand of tax valuation for the first year, or \$48 on a \$200,000 house. For the second and subsequent nineteen years, the tax cost would be an estimated average yearly cost of about \$.70 (seventy cents) per thousand or \$140 on a \$200,000 house. (3)

**A YES vote** will authorize the School Board to negotiate an \$8,250,000 bond for the construction, furnishing and equipping of an addition to Lamprey River Elementary School.

**A NO vote** means the School Board is not authorized to negotiate a bond for the construction, furnishing and equipping of an addition to Lamprey River Elementary School.

#### Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To replace the existing portables (4)
- To build a gymnasium to be used by students for physical education (5)
- To add space to accommodate after-school and community extracurricular events
- To make the existing elementary school building flood proof
- To provide two additional classrooms (6)

#### Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To save rather than bond for an addition
- To continue to use and maintain the portable classrooms
- Disagreement with any or all components of the project
- Prefer to not to add onto a school near the floodplain

#### References:

- (1) The School Board is also authorized to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any becomes available for this project. Information received from Ellen Small, Superintendent, Todd Ledoux, Facilities Director and Ron Brickett, Business Administrator, Raymond School District.
- (2) A 100 year floodplain has a one percent (1%) chance of flooding in any given year. The Lamprey River flows behind the school and encroached under the rear portables in the floods of 2006 and 2007. Proposal selected by the Raymond School Board was submitted by Meridian Construction out of Gilford, N.H. and SMP Architecture out of Concord, N.H. Meridian Construction has done school building/renovation projects throughout New

Hampshire.

- (3) Ron Brickett, Financial Officer for the School District
- (4) The portable temporary buildings are not energy efficient, have become costly to maintain and are impractical for children who must go outdoors and walk to the main building for bathroom, cafeteria and library use. The attached portables need new windows and doors. See PowerPoint Presentations presented at the Bond Public Hearing at: [www.sau33.com](http://www.sau33.com) (School Board then Voter Information tab).
- (5) LRES does not currently have a gym. The cafeteria, used sometimes as a gym, is 3,431 sq. ft. with approximately 1/4 of the room filled up by tables and other equipment. The cafeteria cannot be used for physical education classes at the same time that students are eating meals. As a result, numerous physical education classes have to be held in classrooms filled with desks, tables and storage cabinets.
- (6) LRES has 559 students and 10 portable classrooms. The District plans to use the first floor of the addition for 3rd grade and the second floor for 4th grade classrooms. Depending on the number of students in each grade every year, either 5 or 6 classrooms are needed. In order to keep all 3rd and 4th grade classrooms together on the same floor of the addition, 12 classrooms are needed.

### SCHOOL ARTICLE 3: OPERATING BUDGET

This article will raise \$23,285,667 to fund the School District Operating Budget, or, in the event that this article fails, will raise \$23,327,436 to fund the School District Default Budget. These amounts do not include other money warrant articles that will be voted on separately on this year's school ballot. If the Operating Budget fails and the Default Budget is in place, the School Board may revisit its Operating Budget and call one special meeting following the March elections so voters can vote on the revision. (1)

The proposed budget is an increase of \$150,429 (0.7%) over last year's Operating Budget and is \$41,769 less than the Default Budget. The proposed budget funds a full-day kindergarten and continuing the afterschool program if the School District is successful in receiving another Century 21 grant. The proposed budget accounts for decreases in out-of-district student tuitions; decreases in dental, unemployment and property liability insurances; decreases in salaries, fuel, legal and repair expenses; decreases in revenues and a decrease in bond principal. The proposed budget also accounts for increases in health and workers compensation insurances, increases in services for students; increases in transportation; and an increase in bond interest. (2)

Tax cost for the School Operating Budget net of Estimated Revenues is estimated at \$15.74 per thousand of valuation or \$3,148 for a house valued at \$200,000, which is an increase over last year of \$0.54 per thousand of valuation or \$108 for a house valued at \$200,000. Tax cost for the School Default Operating Budget net of Estimated Revenues is estimated at \$15.79 per thousand of valuation or \$3,158 for a house valued at \$200,000.

Summary: The 2015 NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) Local School Tax Rate for Raymond was \$15.01 per thousand of valuation. The School District's Finance Office estimates that the total cost to taxpayers for the proposed School Operating Budget less estimated revenues (\$15.74), plus all recommended warrant articles voted separately (\$.78), less estimated surplus to be returned to taxpayers at the end of the current school year (.44), may be about \$16.08. This would result in an estimated Local School Tax Rate increase of about \$1.07 per thousand of tax valuation, or about \$214 for a house valued at \$200,000, provided that all school recommended warrant articles pass. (3)

**A YES vote** raises \$23,285,667 to fund the School District Operating Budget.

**A NO vote** raises \$23,327,436 to fund the School District Default Budget and gives the School Board the option of revising its Operating Budget and calling a special meeting for voter action.

#### Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To fund the District's Operating Budget
- To avoid allowing the School Board the option of revising its Operating Budget and calling a special meeting for voter action

#### Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To fund the School District's Default Budget (4)
- To allow the School Board the option of revising its Operating Budget and calling a special meeting for voter action.

**References:**

- (1) As defined by state law, the School District's Default Budget is the current year's budget plus any contractual obligations or required increases. The Default Budget is automatically in place if the proposed operating budget fails (RSA 40:13 IX (b) and if the School Board opts not to revise its proposed budget and call a special meeting. (RSA 40:13 X and XVI).
- (2) Proposed staffing adjustments: Eliminations: out of district coordinator position; Reallocations: one 1<sup>st</sup> and one 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher reallocated to full-day kindergarten. For details, see [www.sau33.com/voterinformation](http://www.sau33.com/voterinformation) or visit the School District Office at Raymond High School.
- (3) The current tax rate is an estimate made by the School District. It is based on estimated revenues and also on the 2015 DRA town assessed value of \$844,560,470, which rose by \$334,650 over last year. In October 2016, when DRA recalculates Raymond's tax rate, Raymond's assessed value may have changed, and revenue estimates may also have changed. Both changes will change the tax rate for the school.
- (4) This year's Default Budget is higher than the Operating Budget because increases for debt service, contracts and obligations previously incurred or mandated by law that are included in the Default Budget are more than reductions made to the 2015-2016 Operating Budget. After the vote, the School Board decides how to spend whatever amount of funds voters approve.

**SCHOOL ARTICLE 4: REA CONTRACT**

This article will approve a two year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Raymond School Board and the Raymond Education Association (REA) that will affect 132 professional staff positions. (1) Each member will advance one step on the salary schedule at the beginning of the year. The 2015-2016 Pay Schedule amounts are increased 3.25% for 2016-2017 (a 5.2% average increase per member). The 2016-2017 Pay Schedule amounts are increased 1.7% for 2017-2018 (a 3.6% average increase per member.)

Insurance changes: All Members are offered SchoolCare's Consumer Driven Health Plan which is a high-deductible Health Plan exempt from the excise tax for several years. The District Contribution is set at 97% in 2016-2017 and 94% in 2017-2018 for single, 2-person or family coverage. A Medical Flexible Spending Account (FSA) will be established. Members may contribute up to the maximum permitted by law that will not trigger the excise tax. The District contributes \$500 per year to an FSA for each spouse of a married couple both employed by the District.

Tax cost for 2016-2017: Cost increases are: salaries: \$331,269; longevity increases: \$5,850; Social Security increases: \$25,790; New Hampshire Retirement increases: \$52,827; FSA contributions and Costs: \$9,960. Cost decreases are: \$183,563 for District savings in health care costs. The net estimated cost for 2016-2017 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement is \$242,133. This represents an estimated cost of \$0.29 per thousand of valuation or \$58 on a \$200,000 house.

Tax cost for 2017-2018: Cost increases are: salaries \$244,647; longevity increases: \$3,900; Social Security increases: \$19,014; New Hampshire Retirement increases: \$38,947. Cost decreases are: \$50,698 for District savings in health care costs. The net estimated cost for 2017-2018 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement is \$255,810. This represents an estimated cost of \$0.30 per thousand of valuation or \$60 on a \$200,000 house.

**A YES vote** approves a two year contract between Raymond School Board and Raymond Education Association, and funds two years, from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018.

**A NO vote** means that professional staff continues to work under the current contract.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- Agreement with the cost items of the collective bargaining agreement

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- Objection to any or all terms of the collective bargaining agreement

**References:**

- (1) Professional staff includes employees of the Raymond School District whose position requires certification by the DOE as a professional engaged in classroom teaching. There are two different types of union membership with some members choosing to have voting rights and others not; the collective bargaining agreement applies to all. The School District office can be contacted to discuss specific details of the contract.

**SCHOOL ARTICLE 5: REA SPECIAL MEETING**

If the collective bargaining agreement identified in Article 3 fails, this article gives the School Board the authority under RSA 32:20 to call one special meeting, at its option, to address cost items in the collective bargaining agreement between the School Board and the Raymond Education Association. (REA) (1)

**A YES vote** allows the School Board to call a special meeting to address cost items in Article 4.

**A NO vote** means there can be no special meeting.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:** To give the School Board the opportunity to renegotiate the contract and present it to the voters without having to petition the court

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:** To avoid the cost of a special meeting (about \$1200 if a simple ballot is used, more if a printed ballot is used)

**SCHOOL ARTICLE 6: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

This article raises \$214,000 to be deposited in two School Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs) to support the School's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). (1) The following CRFs will be funded: Equipment, Facilities Maintenance and Replacement CRF: \$90,000 to build emergency road access to Raymond High School (RHS), \$40,000 to repair roof seams of the main building at Lamprey River Elementary School (LRES), \$75,000 to convert 32 Iber Holmes Gove Middle School (IHGMS) cameras to digital and add 18 digital cameras; Textbook CRF: \$9,000 to save for the purchase of mathematics textbooks in the future. Tax cost: \$214,000 or \$.26 per thousand of valuation or about \$52 on a \$200,000 house, a \$0.0 increase from last year.

**A YES vote** raises \$214,000 to fund two School CRFs in the CIP this year.

**A NO Vote** raises no money to fund CRFs in the School CIP this year.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- Saving gradually can help avoid spikes in the tax rate that could occur if the total cost of a necessary purchase or repair must be paid in one year.
- CRF savings avoid interest when capital improvements must be bonded (borrowed).
- Failure to fund the CIP every year causes the plan to fall further behind projected needs.
- Establishing a Capital Improvement Plan gives the town the authority to collect impact fees from developers to help pay school costs that would otherwise be paid out of taxes. Impact fees can be applied to bond payments for school buildings.

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- To finance high cost items with voter approved bonds
- To bond (borrow) and pay for items as a project is built/purchased and used
- Disagreement with some or all of the items to be funded

**References:** (1) A CRF is a savings account for scheduled School CIP purchases that cost more than \$10,000 and have a life expectancy of at least five years.

**SCHOOL ARTICLE 7: AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM**

*This article is a Citizen's Petition.*

**As amended at Deliberative Session, this article is advisory only:** This article asks voters to allow the Raymond School District (SAU 33) to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1.00 (one dollar) for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Program and to advise the School District that the Program should continue in future years. This Program is open to any student in grades one through eight at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School (IHGMS) and the Lamprey River Elementary School (LRES), and 173 students are currently enrolled. The students receive a snack, 45-60 minutes of homework labs facilitated by certified teachers, 60 minutes of academic enrichment facilitated by certified teachers, community volunteers and outside contractors, and 45 minutes of wind-down social time as students await pick up. The Program also offers summer enrichment opportunities. (1,2) Raymond was awarded the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant five years ago and the School District intends to apply for another five-year grant this year to cover 65% of the expenses, and has budgeted the 35% remaining funds for the program (\$88,858) if the grant is received. (3,4)

**A YES vote** advises the School Board to keep the 21st Century After School Program.

**A NO vote** does not advise the School Board to keep the 21st Century After School Program.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:** To show support for an afterschool program

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:** Prefer not to show support for an afterschool program

**References:**

- (1) The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to afterschool programs. Grants support afterschool programs that provide services to students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools. From <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policy21stcclc.cfm>
- (2) Information from Pat Arsenault, Program Director
- (3) Five years ago, because all three Raymond schools were designated in need of improvement, Raymond scored five points higher on eligibility for the grant. Since Raymond schools have improved, and are no longer designated in need of improvement, Raymond has dropped in competitive level for the grant—Pat Arsenault, Program Director
- (4) School Counsel advised at Deliberative Session that if the petition warrant article as originally worded passed, the school would not be able to use grant money. If the petition failed, as a result of RSA 32:10, I (e), the “No Means No” provision of the Municipal Budget Law, the school would not be able to have the program even if grant money was awarded. Since neither option was the intent of the petitioners, a corrective amendment was offered at Deliberative Session.

## TOWN WARRANT

### ARTICLE 1: TOWN CANDIDATES

*The following Candidates' names will appear on the ballot according to a random selection process in accordance with RSA 656:5-a.*

Choose **two (2)** Selectmen for 3-year terms expiring in 2019:

David Harper Wilson Greg Bemis William A. Hoitt Wayne Welch

Choose **two (2)** Budget Committee Members for 3-year terms expiring in 2019:

Sandra Ellis

Choose **two (2)** Budget Committee Members for 2-year terms expiring in 2018:

Choose **two (2)** Planning Board Members for 3-year terms expiring in 2019:

Bernie (Garland) Peer Gretchen Gott Jim Kent

Choose **one (1)** Ethics Committee Member for a 3-year term expiring in 2019:

Choose **one (1)** Ethics Committee Member for a 2-year term expiring in 2018:

Pamela Turcotte

Choose **one (1)** Ethics Committee Member for a 1-year term expiring in 2017:

Susan Hilchey

Choose **one (1)** Trustee of Trust Funds for a 3-year term expiring in 2019:

Kimberlee Tyndall Mark D. Desrochers

Choose **one (1)** Library Trustee for a 3-year term expiring in 2019:

Barbara Edgar

Choose **one (1)** Library Trustee for a 2-year term expiring in 2018:

Carol Newby

Choose **one (1)** Town Moderator for a 2-year term expiring in 2018:

Kathleen Hoelzel

Choose **one (1)** Supervisor of the Checklist for a 6-year term expiring in 2022:

Marilyn Semple

Choose **one (1)** Supervisor of the Checklist for a 4-year term expiring in 2020:

Christine Rousseau

### ARTICLE 2: ZONING AMENDMENT 1: ZONE B SETBACKS

This article amends the Raymond Zoning Ordinance to reduce Residential/Agricultural District (Zone B) side and rear setbacks (no-build areas), on two-acre lots, from 50 feet to 30 feet from the property line. (1)

**A YES vote** will reduce side and rear setback requirements in Zone B from 50 feet to 30 feet.

**NO vote** will leave the current side and rear setback requirements in Zone B at 50 feet.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To allow Zone B property owners more flexibility in their building options
- To reduce the number of side and rear setback variance requests
- To continue to meet the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) minimum setback standard (2)

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- To maintain the current level of open space between structures
- To maintain the current level of privacy and rural roadside appearance

**References:**

- (1) See Raymond Zoning Ordinance 15.1.3 Minimum Setback Requirements at Town Hall, Dudley-Tucker Library, or [www.raymondnh.gov](http://www.raymondnh.gov) (Departments, Community Development & Planning, 2015 Zoning Ordinance).
- (2) See NFPA 1141: Standard for Fire Protection Infrastructure for Land Development in Wildland, Rural, and Suburban Areas (Section 6.2.1)

### ARTICLE 3: ZONING AMENDMENT 2: SMALL BUILDING SIDE

#### SETBACKS

This article amends the Raymond Zoning Ordinance to allow accessory buildings of 144 square feet or smaller to be at least 25 feet from the side property lines. The current setback (no-build area) for all accessory buildings is 37 ½ feet from side property lines. Accessory buildings include but are not limited to detached garages, swimming pools and equipment sheds. (1)

**A YES vote** will allow accessory buildings of 144 square feet or less to be 25 feet from side property lines, and will keep the 37 ½ foot side property line setback for all larger accessory buildings.

**A NO vote** will keep the 37 ½ foot side property line setback for all accessory buildings, including those of 144 square feet or smaller.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To allow property owners more flexibility in the use of their property

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- To maintain the current level of open space between structures
- Does not meet the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) minimum structure setback standard of 30 feet from property lines (2)

**References:**

- (1) See Raymond Zoning Ordinance 15.2.2 at Town Hall, Dudley Tucker-Library, or [www.raymondnh.gov](http://www.raymondnh.gov) (Departments, Community Development & Planning, 2015 Zoning Ordinance).
- (2) See NFPA 1141: Standard for Fire Protection Infrastructure for Land Development in Wildland, Rural, and Suburban Areas (Section 6.2.1) “Any structure over 110 square feet is considered a building. Distance between buildings is the cheapest fire protection from a conflagration.” Kevin Pratt, Raymond Fire Chief

### ARTICLE 4: ZONING AMENDMENT 3: ZONE C-3 RESIDENCE LIMIT

This article amends the Raymond Zoning Ordinance to clarify that within the Mixed-Use Commercial District (C.3 Zone) more than one commercial building will be allowed per lot, but only one residence will be allowed (single family or duplex). (1)

**A YES vote** will clarify the number and type of buildings allowed in the C-3 Zone.

**A NO vote** will leave the number and type of building allowed in the C-3 Zone undefined.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To correct an omission made when the C-3 Zone was added to the Raymond Zoning Ordinance

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- Disagreement with the clarification

**References:**

- (1) See Raymond Zoning Ordinance Article XV, Section 15.2.4 at Town Hall, Dudley-Tucker Library, or [www.raymondnh.gov](http://www.raymondnh.gov) (Departments, Community Development & Planning, 2015 Zoning Ordinance).

### ARTICLE 5: ZONING AMENDMENT 4: CERTIFIED PLOT PLAN USE

This article amends the Raymond Zoning Ordinance to allow septic plans to be used as the required certified plot plan to be submitted with building permit applications for permanent structures, provided a note is included on the plan by the owner of the plan that the septic plan may be used for this purpose, and provided the septic plan also bears the stamp of a Licensed Land Surveyor. (1)

**A YES vote** will allow a septic plan stamped by a Licensed Land Surveyor to be used as a certified plot plan when seeking a building permit for the construction or enlargement of a permanent structure.

**A NO vote** will continue to require a certified plot plan with all building permits for the construction or enlargement of a permanent structure.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To save the applicant the time and cost of preparing a required certified plot plan prior to seeking a building permit in cases where a septic plan is also required and can be prepared with the accuracy needed to serve

as both a certified plot plan and a septic plan

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- To leave in place the current process of requiring a certified plot plan to be submitted when applying for a building permit for a permanent structure

**References:**

- (1) See Raymond Zoning Ordinance 8.1.3 at Town Hall, Dudley Tucker-Library, or [www.raymondnh.gov](http://www.raymondnh.gov) (Departments, Community Development & Planning, 2015 Zoning Ordinance).

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**ARTICLE 6: ZONING AMENDMENT 5: IMPACT FEE REVIEW**

**AUTHORITY**

This article amends the Raymond Zoning Ordinance to remove the Board of Selectmen from the review and approval process for impact fees. (1) Property developers pay impact fees to help fund new infrastructure. State statute gives the Planning Board the responsibility for developing the methodology for impact fees, and reviewing and changing the schedule of fees. (2)

**A YES vote** will remove the Board of Selectmen from the review and approval process for impact fees.

**A NO vote** will continue to require both the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen to review and approve the Impact Fee Assessment Schedule.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- State statute does not give the Board of Selectmen authority in the impact fee process. (3)

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- To keep the Board of Selectmen involved in the impact fee process.

**References:**

- (1) See Raymond Zoning Ordinance 7.1.17 at Town Hall, Dudley Tucker-Library, or [www.raymondnh.gov](http://www.raymondnh.gov) (Departments, Community Development & Planning, 2015 Zoning Ordinance).
- (2) See RSA 674:21:V
- (3) Planning Board Legal Counsel recommended this warrant article.

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**ARTICLE 7: WELL #1 REPLACEMENT & NEW WELL #4**

*This article requires a 3/5 majority vote to pass.*

This article gives the Board of Selectmen the authority to raise and appropriate no more than \$2,651,000 to replace Town Water Well #1 and to bring Town Water Well #4 into service to meet present and future water needs for the Town of Raymond. The bond will be funded with a loan from the New Hampshire Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, payable over twenty years, and only the amount actually needed as determined in the design phase will be borrowed. (1) Design and replacement of Town Water Well #1 on Cider Ferry Road will cost about \$227,000. (2) Design and construction of Town Water Well #4 on the lower athletic field at the Raymond High School will cost about \$2,424,000. (3) Tax cost zero (\$0.0) since town water users fund Water Department bonds.

**A YES vote** authorizes the Board of Selectmen to negotiate a \$2,651,000 bond to replace Well #1 and bring Well #4 on line.

**A NO vote** means the Board of Selectmen is not authorized to negotiate a bond to replace Well #1 and bring new Well #4 on line.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To replace Well #1, the primary source of Raymond's drinking water, this spring, prior to the onset of the dry season
- To create a back-up system for Raymond's drinking water by providing water from two separate aquifers (the sand and gravel aquifer at Cider Ferry Road and the bedrock aquifer at the High School) (2)
- To extend the life of the Raymond Town Water Treatment Plant by using it less and allowing more time for maintenance (4)
- To maintain and grow Raymond's Fire Hydrant System
- To develop a new water source to remove constraints on growth and provide new business and residential users with water by the end of next year

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- Prefer a different location for water wells
- Prefer not to create a back-up system for Town well water
- Prefer not to expand Raymond's hydrant system

**References:**

- (1) Borrowing will be in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and will authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain and

accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available. The board must abide by all laws applicable. The article authorizes the board to determine the rate of interest and the length of the bond.

- (2) Currently all Raymond Water Wells are in one location and draw from the same water source. The proposed Water Well #4 is in a different location and draws from a different water source.
- (3) Steve Brewer, Director, Department of Public Works: The town currently has three wells on Cider Ferry Road. Well #1 has been the highest producer and is now sixty-three years old, past its useful life and cannot survive its next state mandated cleaning. A new well must be designed, engineered, constructed and connected to the block house adjacent to the Water Treatment Plant. Design is estimated at \$46,000; construction at \$128,000, contingency for cost overruns at \$13,000, and \$40,000 for other needs including to cap the existing well as required by state statute..
- (4) Steve Brewer, Director, Department of Public Works: The new Town Well #4 is nearing the end of the state permitting process; the pump test analysis has shown clean water with little need for treatment. This well will be connected to the Route 27 distribution system. Design, engineering and bidding the contract will cost about \$379,000. Contingency fund will be \$170,000, and \$175,000 more will be placed in the budget for monitoring and connections. The actual construction of the well is anticipated to be about \$1.7 million.
- (5) Steve Brewer, Director, Department of Public Works. Currently the treatment, which removes iron and manganese) cannot keep up with demand.

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**ARTICLE 8: BOND FOR DPW VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT**

**Vehicle & Equipment Purchases**

*This article requires a 3/5 majority vote to pass.*

**As reduced at Town Deliberative Session 1/30/1016:**

This article asks voters to authorize the Town to raise and appropriate \$673,526 by issuing a bond (loan) for the purchase of vehicles and equipment for the Department of Public Works (DPW), using the policies of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as its basis for making these purchases. (1)

This bond (2) is proposed as a one-time fix to meet the current DPW vehicle and equipment needs for which balances in the Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs) are insufficient to cover the cost. (3) The bond will ensure that the current level of service by the DPW will continue. (4)

The following vehicles, equipped for snow plowing and road maintenance, will be purchased in a phased roll out of purchases over two years: Four Highway Vehicles including two Pickup Trucks (\$89,250 and \$93,713) and two Dump Trucks (\$183,750 and \$192,938); one Leaf Vacuum and Trailer (\$60,375); and one Parks Truck (\$53,500).

The first-year (2016) tax cost (for bond issuance and bond counsel only) is \$15,000, at an estimated tax impact of \$0.02 per thousand of tax valuation, or \$4 on a \$200,000 house. The first bond payment for principal and interest (due in 2017) will be approximately \$149,473 at an estimated tax impact of \$0.18 per thousand of tax valuation or \$36.00 on a \$200,000 house. (5)

**A YES vote** will authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate a \$673,526 bond to replace the DPW equipment named above.

**A NO vote** means the Board of Selectmen is not authorized to negotiate a bond to replace DPW equipment named above and may not purchase this DPW equipment during 2016 by any other means. (6)

**Reasons why some voters might vote YES:**

- The top five trucks in need of replacement were scheduled on the 2010 CIP for 2011 to 2014, and replacement has been repeatedly delayed. They range in age from 17, 15, 14, 13 to 11 years old (as of June 2015). (4)
- The DPW dump trucks have such significant rotting and corrosion that they are no longer able to carry the load they are designed to carry. (4)
- Much of the DPW equipment exceeds its own value to repair. (4)
- The NH DOT Replacement Program calls for all state trucks to be replaced after 10 years (to recover some residual value, avoid costly repairs, and for safety). (4)
- Unsafe vehicles and equipment put staff and those who use the roads at risk. (4) (7)

**Reasons why some voters might vote NO:**

- To save rather than bond for DPW vehicles and equipment
- Disagreement with one or more of the planned purchases

**References:**

- (1) The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) policy calls for saving for purchases that cost more than \$15,000 and have a five-year or longer life span. Savings are held in the Town's Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs) until the Plan's schedule and/or the condition of the equipment calls for replacement. The 2015 CIP

Committee conducted a comprehensive review, needs assessment, and evaluation of all town departments and town facilities. The committee concluded that the CIP has not been used as the policy intends, as a savings plan for big ticket items to help prevent tax spikes and minimize long-term debt. This bond and an annual increase in CIP allocations (Article 15) are recommended to get the Plan back on track.

- (2) Since the life of a bond cannot exceed the life of the equipment to be purchased, long-term debt is not an option for these purchases; duration of the bond is expected to be five years. However, if the bond warrant article passes, the Selectmen will negotiate both the duration and the interest rate. The issuance of bonds or notes (loan) would be under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33). The Board of Selectmen would be authorized to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state, or other aid, if any, which may be available, and the board must comply with all applicable laws.
- (3) Bonding current needs will leave the following CRF funds in place to support needs that will arise within five years. Current fund holdings: Highway Heavy Equipment CRF: \$78,925; Park Dept. Vehicle Replacement CRF: \$50,216; Highway Department Vehicle Replacement CRF: \$67,891 (approximately half is encumbered for expenditures on order).
- (4) See CIP Committee minutes at [www.raymondnh.gov](http://www.raymondnh.gov); RCTV coverage of the DPW Tour (6/2/15) at [www.rctv.com](http://www.rctv.com), and "Top Five Highway Division Trucks in Need of Replacement" (6/6/15 by DPW Director Steve Brewer) at the Department of Public Works. Cost estimates are based on 2015 prices for trucks fitted with the necessary equipment for snow plowing and other road maintenance.
- (5) The repayment of principal and interest shall be a general obligation of the Town of Raymond, and it is the Selectmen's intent that the repayment of the principal and interest shall be funded through taxation.
- (6) RSA 32:10, I(e)- The town or district meeting may vote separately on individual purposes of appropriation contained within any warrant article or budget, but such a separate vote shall not affect the governing body's legal authority to transfer appropriations, provided, however, that if the meeting deletes a purpose, or reduces the amount appropriated for that purpose to zero or does not approve an appropriation contained in a separate article, that purpose or article shall be deemed one for which no appropriation is made, and no amount shall be transferred to or expended for such purpose. <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/iii/32/32-10.htm> ("No" means "no.")
- (7) Craig Sykes, Raymond Highway Superintendent: "Renting equipment is not always an option. I have found that equipment companies are not keeping as many pieces of equipment for rent as they used to. Also during times of emergency, I have found that the demand for particular pieces of equipment skyrockets and becomes a first come first serve basis, so our response could be hampered. With us having the equipment, we can respond immediately. In my opinion, renting is not in the best interest of the Town unless it is a specialized piece of equipment that is only used on a very limited basis."

## ARTICLE 9: TOWN OPERATING BUDGET/DEFAULT BUDGET

This article will raise \$8,232,194 to fund the Town's Operating Budget, or if this article fails, will raise \$8,033,433 to fund the Default Budget. (1)

The amounts above do not include other money warrant articles on this year's ballot that may pass or fail. These amounts do include the Water Department Budget, which is self-funded by water users, has no tax impact, and is not included in the information that follows. (2)

The proposed Town Operating Budget (without the Water Budget) is \$7,428,429 which is an increase of \$250,269 (or 3.49%) over last year's actual operating budget. (3)

Cost increases this year include: Highway Department road salt: \$15,772 and road sand: \$6,450 due to increased use and price of salt (up 7%); Administration: Reinstatement of Regional Planning Commission membership and dues: \$10,000; Police Department scheduled cruiser replacement: \$30,000; Fire Department salary increases to try to curb the loss to other towns of full time Firefighters/EMTs/Call Firefighters; \$6,379. Planning Department salary increase for part-time building inspector position to try to meet salary competition from other towns: \$5,917. Election staffing for additional elections in 2016: \$3,342; Health insurance for Town's union and non-union employees: \$14,422; Workman's Compensation expense: \$5,237; Highway Dept. Winter Overtime: \$18,838; Dispatch Overtime \$12,195. (4)

Costs decreases include: Legal expenses: --\$10,000 due to no outstanding legal issues; Electricity: --\$6,650 due to downward trend since 2014; Heating Fuel (propane): -- \$2,510; Health Insurance costs to the Town: --\$20,367; Town Code Changes: --\$1,300; Planning & Zoning Expenses: --\$1,400; Winter Overtime: --\$18,838.

The tax cost of the proposed 2016 Operating Budget (without the self-funded Water Budget) is \$6.37 per thousand of tax valuation or \$1,274 for a \$200,000 house. Tax cost of the Default Operating Budget is \$6.10 per thousand of tax valuation or \$1,220 for a \$200,000 house. The total tax cost of all additional warrant articles, should they pass, will be an additional \$0.71 per thousand of tax valuation, or \$142 for a \$200,000 house, and this amount must be added regardless of the budget adopted.

Summary: The 2015 NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) Municipal (Town) Tax Rate for Raymond was \$6.66. Based on this tax rate and last year's revenues staying the same, Raymond's Finance Office estimates that the total cost to taxpayers for the proposed Operating Budget (less estimated revenue), plus all proposed additional warrant articles, may be about \$7.08. This would be a tax increase of about \$0.42 per thousand of tax valuation, or about \$84.00 for a house valued at \$200,000. (5)

**A YES vote** raises \$8,232,194 to fund the Town's Operating Budget and the Town's Water Budget.

**A NO vote** raises \$8,033,433 to fund the Town's Default Budget and the Town's Water Budget.

### Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To fund the proposed Town Operating Budget

### Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To fund the Town's Default Operating Budget

### References:

- (1) The Town's default budget is defined by state law. It includes the previous year's budget plus any contractual obligations, and plus or minus any one time expenses. The default budget is automatically in place if the proposed operating budget fails. RSA 40:13 IX (b)  
Finance Office analysis: "The default budget is affected by multiple factors, including, for Raymond, the fact that the Fire Department equipment bond has been paid off and the town need not make that payment this year (\$35,000)." With the default budget, the Town's Health Insurance costs will be reduced by \$5,281; however, with the proposed budget, the Town's Health Insurance costs will be reduced by \$20,367. The default budget also eliminates the 2¼% pay raise for Raymond's non-union employees and discontinues projects already begun like the heating repairs taking place in Town Hall.
- (2) The Water Budget is self-funded by all users of town water according to a rate schedule set by the Selectmen. The Water Rate Schedule can be found at Town Hall (Bylaw #213).
- (3) The actual budget includes the 2015 proposed budget plus any money warrant articles voted forward in March 2015 plus any obligations already contracted for (such as a second year of a contract).
- (4) The operating budget preparation for 2016 tried to more accurately reflect the real cost of items, based on trends over the last few years, and place them in the budget where they belong, to try to improve transparency, tracking and year-to-year comparisons. The Department of Public Works budget is now organized as the Highway Division, the Fleet Maintenance Division and the DPW Administration. Town Manager Craig Wheeler, to the Budget Committee
- (5) The current tax rate is an estimate made by the Town. It is based on estimated revenues and also on the 2015 DRA town assessed value of \$844,560,470, which rose by \$334,650 over last year. In October 2016, when DRA recalculates Raymond's tax rate, Raymond's assessed value may have changed, and revenue estimates may also have changed. Both changes will change the tax rate.

## ARTICLE 10: AFSCME CONTRACT

This article asks the voters to approve a three (3) year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Raymond and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 93, Local 863, Raymond. The contract provides a 2.25% wage increase for each year of the three year contract. The first year of the contract also includes a \$50.00 increase in footwear allowance for all Public Work employees who engage in shop, custodial or field operations. (1) Currently 14 union members who work at the Library, Public Works Department and Recreation Department, and at Town Hall will be affected. (2)

This article will fund the first year's cost (April 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016) and the footwear allowance and also approve funding for future years.

Tax cost for 2016 is \$10,384 or \$0.012 per thousand of tax valuation (about \$2.40 for a \$200,000 house). Tax cost for 2017 is \$14,630, estimated at \$0.017 per thousand of tax valuation (about \$3.40 for a \$200,000 house). For 2018, the cost is \$14,946 and for 2019 the cost is \$4,169. (3)

**A YES vote** approves the contract between the town and AFSCME, Local 863, funds the first calendar year and the footwear allowance increase, and commits the Town to funding the rest of the three year contract.

**A NO vote** continues the current contract.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- Agreement with the cost items of the collective bargaining agreement.

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- Objections to any or all terms of the collective bargaining agreement.

**References:**

- (1) The AFSCME contract runs from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2019. This is a three year contract paid out in four different calendar years.
- (2) Two additional members are still in their probationary period.
- (3) Estimates for 2017 are based on the 2015 tax valuation. The tax impacts for 2018 and 2019 are not estimated because the tax valuations cannot be reasonably estimated that far into the future.

**ARTICLE 11: AFSCME CONTRACT SPECIAL MEETING**

If the collective bargaining agreement identified in article 10 fails, this article gives the Town the authority to call one special meeting, at its option, to address cost items in the collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 863, of Raymond. (1)

**A YES vote** allows the Town to call one special meeting to address cost items in Article 10.

**A NO vote** means that there can be no special meeting.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To give the Town the opportunity to renegotiate the contract and then present it to the voters at a special meeting
- To avoid having to petition the court if the Town decides to hold a special meeting after the contract is renegotiated

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- To avoid the cost of an additional town meeting

**References:**

- (1) NH RSA 32:20 Municipal Budget Law

**ARTICLE 12: SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

This article will raise \$2,000 for the Town of Raymond Scholarship Capital Reserve Fund for Raymond High School graduating seniors and Raymond residents attending their first year of college. Recipients are chosen by the Board of Selectmen who also determine the amount of each scholarship. (1) Tax cost: \$.002 per \$1,000 of tax valuation (same as last year) or about forty cents (\$.40) on a \$200,000 house.

**A YES vote** will add \$2,000 to the Scholarship Fund.

**A NO vote** will not add to the Scholarship Fund this year.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To build the Scholarship fund

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- To spend down the Scholarship Fund balance (2)

**References:**

- (1) Raymond awarded two \$1,000 scholarships in 2015. The Scholarship Fund currently has a balance of \$6,882. Scholarship funds are released from the Capital Reserve Fund after recipients have completed their first semester at college and submitted documentation to that effect.
- (2) The Selectmen do not currently intend to build the fund to the point that interest income can support the annual scholarship costs.

**ARTICLE 13: SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES**

This article will raise \$70,820 for twelve (12) Social Service agencies that provide services to Raymond residents. (1) Agencies were interviewed by the Board of Selectmen. (2) The board chose to increase funding by \$1,000 over last year's rates, in recognition of agency needs and services provided to Raymond citizens. (3) Tax cost is \$.08 per \$1,000 of tax valuation or \$16 for a \$200,000 house.

**A YES vote** will provide funding to the listed Social Service agencies that serve Raymond residents.

**A NO vote** will not provide any funding from Raymond to any social service agency.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To help support agencies serving Raymond citizens (2)

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- Personal objections to any or all of the agencies
- Personal objections to town funding of any or all social service agencies

**References:**

- (1) The town funded 13 agencies last year; however, in July 2015 A Safe Place and Sexual Assault Support Services merged. The following agencies are funded at the same amount as in 2015: A Safe Place/Sexual Assault Support Services \$4,175; Area Homemaker Health Aid \$4,000; Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) \$500; Lamprey Health Care \$6,500; Retired Seniors Volunteer Program \$600; and Rockingham Community Action \$36,000; American Red Cross \$1,850. The following agencies are funded at increases: Child Advocacy Center \$1,097 (up \$97); Child and Family Services \$5,597 (up \$97); Rockingham County Nutrition Program \$3,747 (up \$77); Seacoast Mental Health \$3,097 (up \$97); Richie McFarland Children's Center \$3,658 (up \$633).
- (2) See Board of Selectmen Minutes from September 14, 2015 at [www.raymondnh.gov](http://www.raymondnh.gov) for details from the interviews.
- (3) Some Social Service Agencies provide assistance that the Town Welfare Department would otherwise be required to fund according to RSA 165:1 Aid to Assisted Persons. All of the social service agencies contribute significantly more in services and financial support than they receive from the town, especially those who provide assistance to the Raymond Police Department in their work with victims. See Board of Selectmen Minutes from September 14, 2015.

**Article 14: MOSQUITO CONTROL**

This article raises \$40,000 to fund the mosquito control program in Raymond. The mosquito program monitors and controls mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), primarily by larvicide and emergency spraying, and on-request spraying of public assembly areas. The state will continue to provide testing of submitted samples at no cost to the town. In addition, a state grant may reimburse the town up to \$3,000, but only if the state has the money, and only after the declaration of an emergency due to mosquito populations or reported instances of West Nile Virus or EEE. Tax cost: \$40,000 total at a \$5,000 decrease over last year due to finalization of the new contract with Dragon and the reduced need for treatment in Raymond. Tax cost is \$.05 per \$1,000 of tax valuation or about \$10 on a \$200,000 house. (1)

**A YES vote** funds the mosquito control program in Raymond.

**A NO vote** eliminates the mosquito control program in Raymond.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- Reduces risk of exposure to West Nile Virus and EEE infection. (2)
- Raymond tested positive in 2014 for mosquitoes carrying EEE Virus, but there have been no positive tests since. (3)

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- Does not guarantee prevention of West Nile Virus and/or EEE infection. (4)
- Do not want a mosquito control program in Raymond.

**References:**

- (1) Town Manager Craig Wheeler: The contract also covers the new Zika virus.
- (2) Former Town of Raymond Health Officer Richard Mailhot
- (3) Deputy Town Health Officer Ernest Cartier Creveling
- (4) Former Town of Raymond Health Officer Richard Mailhot

**ARTICLE 15: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

This article raises \$250,000 to be deposited in seven previously established Town Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs) to support the Town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). (1)

The 2015 CIP Committee conducted a comprehensive review, needs assessment, and evaluation of all town departments and town facilities. The committee concluded that the CIP has not been used as the policy intends, as a savings plan for big ticket items to help prevent tax spikes and minimize long-term debt. An annual increase in CIP allocations and the CIP Department of Public Works Bond (Article 8) are recommended to get the CIP back on schedule. (2)

Seven CRFs are funded for an overall 7.7% increase over last year. Two CRFs are funded at last year's level: General Government Buildings, Maintenance and Improvement at \$25,000 and Parks Equipment, Vehicles and Facilities at \$25,000. One CRF will be funded at a 48% decrease: Fire Department Equipment and Vehicles at \$50,000. (3) Three CRFs will be funded at increased rates: Highway Department Vehicle Repair and Replacement at \$50,000 (11% increase); Highway Department Heavy Equipment at \$30,000 (50% increase); and Police/Dispatch Equipment and Vehicle \$45,000 (44% increase). Bridge Maintenance, unfunded last year, will be funded at \$25,000.

Six CRFs were not funded last year and will not be funded this year: Sidewalks,

Revaluation, Master Plan Updates, New Town Facilities, Library, and Recreation Department Equipment. The Town Offices Technology CRF was funded last year, but will not be funded this year. (4)

The CIP cost increase over last year is \$17,800 or about \$5.00 more than last year on a \$200,000 house. Total cost to fund the Town's CIP this year is \$0.30 per thousand of tax valuation or about \$60 on a \$200,000 house.

A **YES vote** raises \$250,000 to fund seven of fourteen Town CRFs in the CIP this year.

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

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To help put the Capital Improvement Plan back on schedule in order to ensure that money will be available for scheduled projects
- Failure to fund the CIP every year causes the plan to fall behind projected needs.
- To return to saving gradually to help avoid spikes in the tax rate that could occur if the total cost of a necessary purchase or repair must be paid in one year
- To avoid interest costs when capital improvements must be purchased through bonding
- Establishing a Capital Improvement Plan gives the town the authority to collect impact fees from developers to help pay for road construction that would otherwise be paid out of taxes. Funding a CIP ensures that impact fees maintain their current level and do not have to be reduced following the annual impact fee review required by the Raymond Zoning Ordinance. (5)

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- To finance capital needs with voter approved bonds
- To bond (borrow) and pay for items as a project is built/purchased and used

**References:**

- (1) A Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) is a savings account for scheduled Capital Improvement (CIP) purchases that cost more than \$15,000 and have a five-year or longer life span.
- (2) "A Capital Improvement Plan creates a focus on preserving a municipal infrastructure and ensuring the efficient use of tax dollars." Board of Selectmen's Consultant: Municipal Resources Inc. Don Jutton 11/18/13
- (3) Fire Department Equipment and Vehicles CRF has \$729,800. The CIP Committee determined that this department is on schedule to meet current and near-future needs, while other CRF accounts lag far behind. The bond for the Fire Pumper reached maturity in September 2015. See Warrant Article 8 for balances in the DPW CRFs.
- (4) Sidewalks are built as part of road reconstruction when planned. Town revaluations are now funded annually through the General Budget. Master Plan updates are now done in house by the Planning Board and the Planning Department. New Town Facilities are usually built with bonds. Library Improvements and Recreation Department needs are on schedule to meet current and near-future needs.
- (5) In the past Road Impact Fees had to be reduced and then discontinued due to fewer road miles completed annually. Reinstatement of road impact fees following the annual impact fee review required by the Raymond Zoning Code can only take place if a CIP program is in place. See Raymond Zoning Ordinance 7.512 at the Town Hall, Dudley Tucker Library or at [www.raymondnh.gov](http://www.raymondnh.gov) (2015 Raymond Zoning Ordinance).

**ARTICLE 16: Town Water Capital Reserve Funds**

This article raises \$28,000 to be deposited into three Water Department Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs) to support the Water Department's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) (1) : Paint Water Tank Towers CRF \$26,500; Water Department Utility Vehicle Replacement CRF \$500; New Well Site Acquisitions CRF \$1,000. Two Water Department CRFs will not be funded this year: New Water Treatment Facility (2) and Well Cleaning (3).

Tax cost zero (\$.0) since town water users fund Water Department Capital Reserve Funds.

A **YES vote** puts \$28,000 into the three already established Water Department Capital Reserve Funds for Painting Water Tank Towers, Water Department Vehicle Replacement, and New Well Site Acquisition.

A **NO vote** will not add funding to any Water Department Capital Reserve Funds this year.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To ensure that funds will be available to paint one town water tank

tower scheduled this year and to begin to save to repaint the next scheduled tower (4)

- To ensure that funds will be available for scheduled Water Department capital improvements

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- To finance high cost items with voter approved bonds

**References:**

- (1) A Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) is a savings account for scheduled Capital Improvement (CIP) purchases that cost more than \$15,000 and have a five-year or longer life span. Water CRFs allow the Water Department to save for expensive items related to Raymond's town water needs. Director of Public Works
- (2) The Water Department recommends that the New Water Treatment Facility CRF be renamed and repurposed to expand its use to "Construct, Repair and Maintain Town Water Treatment Facility." See Warrant Article #21.
- (3) Well Cleaning CRF currently holds \$31,434. Each well is cleaned every three years at an approximate cost of \$12,000. This cost will increase when well #4 is placed in service.
- (4) Water Tank Tower painting is a state mandated maintenance procedure. The Orchard Street Water Tower (built in 1893) is in need of painting (including lead paint stripping) at a cost of \$550,000 to maintain operational status and certification in 2016. Discussions are ongoing about the fate of this tower. The Route 156 Tower (built in 1958) is also in need of painting at a cost of \$345,000. The Long Hill Tower is scheduled for painting at a cost of \$200,000 in 2020. The current fund balance is \$182,450. Public Works Director, Steve Brewer (4)

**ARTICLE 17: ROAD SHIM/OVERLAY SRF**

This Special Revenue Fund (SRF) was created to hold funds that can be saved year to year and used as needed when Raymond town roads need to be rehabilitated with gravel shim and with asphalt overlay. (1)

This article authorizes funding and withdrawal of \$630,122 from the Department of Public Works Shim and Overlay SRF. (2) There is no net impact to the Town's Operating Budget because NH State Highway Block Grant revenue funds this SRF. The grant to Raymond was \$225,122 this year, an increase of \$15,283.

Tax cost: zero (\$0.0) per thousand of tax valuation.

A **YES vote** authorizes the Department of Public Works to withdraw \$630,122 from its Shim and Overlay Special Revenue Fund and requires use of the money prior to December 31, 2018.

A **NO vote** means that the Department of Public Works will not be able to withdraw and use Shim and Overlay Special Revenue Fund money this year.-

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To reduce the number of roads in need of rehabilitation in Raymond

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- Disagreement with the project(s) that the money will be spent on

**References**

- (1) Projects completed in 2015 were Jennifer Lane, Peach Tree Court, John Street, Oak Street and Kelly Lane. In 2016, part of the money will be used for the Onway Lake culvert (bridge) project. This culvert (bridge) was recently downgraded by the state to carry a maximum load of six tons which means that fire trucks, fuels trucks and other heavy trucks cannot enter Onway Lake Road from Scribner Road.
- (2) Since Raymond's annual Operating Budget cannot accumulate funds year to year, Special Revenue Funds (SRF) must be used when the town needs to complete a project over several years. Voters must approve all withdrawals. The current balance in the Shim and Overlay Special Revenue Fund is \$407,364. See RSA 31:95-c <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/III/31/31-95-c.htm>

**ARTICLE 18: ROAD RECONSTRUCTION**

This article funds \$149,000, the same amount as last year and the same amount for at least the last ten years, for road reconstruction projects, as determined by the Director of Public Works. This appropriation can be held for two years, or until the road reconstruction work has been completed, whichever comes sooner. (1) Tax cost: \$.18 per \$1000 of tax valuation or about \$36 on a \$200,000 house.

A **YES vote** allows the town to continue some road reconstruction projects.

A **NO vote** delays road reconstruction projects.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To enable the Public Works Department to reconstruct some roads

rather than continue to make repairs to those roads (2)

- To try to decrease the percentage of road miles in need of repair (3)
- To try to complete enough road miles to enable reinstatement of road impact fees following the annual impact fee review required by the Raymond Zoning Code (4)

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- Disagreement with some or all of proposed road projects

**References:**

- (1) RSA 32:7: VI gives towns the authority to create non-lapsing funds.
- (2) Department of Public Works: Old Bye Road and Richard Court were completed this year. Near-term priority: replacement (state mandated) of the Onway Lake Road culvert (bridge) to return it to full operation, beginning with design and permitting (preliminary estimate: \$600,000). Next priority: construction of North Main Street, currently in its design and engineering phase (preliminary estimate, based on the cost of constructing Epping Street: \$600,000 to \$800,000).
- (3) The percentage of roads in need of repair has increased in recent years due to the rise in cost of asphalt and other products. The number of roads in need of repair or reconstruction has steadily increased while the funding for road work has remained at the same level for at least ten years. In 2009, Raymond had approximately 66% of roads in need of repair according to then DPW Director, Dennis McCarthy. As of January 2014, an estimated 77% of Raymond's roads were in need of repair according to then DPW Director Patrick Bower. Director of Public Works, Steve Brewer is proposing to have a study completed this year that would result in a list of roads in need of repair, based on a more accurate survey of all Town owned roads. This survey will aid in prioritizing the use of available funds.
- (4) In the past, Road Impact Fees had to be reduced due to fewer road miles completed annually. Road impact fees are currently suspended, so the only funding for roads that the town receives comes from exaction fees that the Planning Board is able to justify as related to a particular development application. See Raymond Zoning Ordinance 7.512 See at Town Hall or at [http://www.raymondnh.gov/planning/planning\\_39\\_3411741797.pdf](http://www.raymondnh.gov/planning/planning_39_3411741797.pdf)

## ARTICLE 19: VACATION & SICK LEAVE NON-UNION FUND

This article raises and appropriates \$50,000 to be deposited into the Vacation and Sick Leave Non-Union Expendable Fund for Non-Union employees. (1) This fund was established by voters in 2004 to ensure that the town would have the money to pay for accrued sick and vacation leave when employees retire. The pay-out amount is determined in the Town of Raymond Personnel Policy. (2) Tax cost: \$.06 per thousand of tax valuation or \$12 for a \$200,000 house.

**A YES vote** raises \$50,000 for the Vacation and Sick Leave Non-Union Expendable Fund.

**A NO vote** raises no money for the Vacation and Sick Leave Non-Union Expendable Fund.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- The Non-union Vacation and Sick Leave fund is currently under-funded. (3)

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- Prefer to fund in the Operating Budget

**References**

- (1) Inquire at Town Hall to view the complete policy. Employees can accrue up to 90 days of sick leave for non-union and union (AFSCME) town employees, and up to 60 days for Police. Payout percent is based on years employed. Vacation payout is up to 1.5 times their annual accumulation for non-union and union (AFSCME) town employees and up to 80 hours for Police.
- (2) See RSA 31:19-a. An "expendable" fund is a municipal trust fund created for maintenance and operation purposes
- (3) The non-union Vacation and Sick Leave Expendable Fund has \$10,083.71 due to the retirement of a long-term employee in 2014. Using a formula of taking the average pay-out expense compared to expected retirements, the Non-Union Vacation and Sick Leave Fund is under-funded by \$30,000 to \$50,000. Eight employees are expected to retire over the next five years. Town Manager Craig Wheeler

## ARTICLE 20: VACATION & SICK LEAVE UNION FUND

This article raises and appropriates \$10,000 to be deposited into the Vacation and Sick Leave Union Expendable Fund for Union employees. (1) This fund was established by voters in 2002 to ensure that the town would have the money to pay for accrued sick and vacation leave when union employees retire. The pay-out amount is determined in the Town of Raymond Personnel Policy. (2) Tax cost: \$.01 per thousand of tax valuation or \$2 for a \$200,000 house.

**A YES vote** raises \$10,000 for the Vacation and Sick Leave Union Expendable Fund.

**A NO vote** raises no money for the Vacation and Sick Leave Union Expendable Fund.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- The Union Vacation and Sick Leave fund is currently under-funded. (3)

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- Prefer to fund in the Operating Budget

**References**

- (1) Inquire at Town Hall to view the complete policy. Employees can accrue up to 90 days of sick leave for non-union and union (AFSCME) town employees, and up to 60 days for Police. Payout percent is based on years employed. Vacation payout is up to 1.5 times their annual accumulation for Non-Union and Union (AFSCME) town employees and up to 80 hours for Police.
- (2) See RSA 31:19-a. An "expendable" fund is a municipal trust fund created for maintenance and operation purposes
- (3) The union Vacation and Sick Leave Expendable Fund has about \$20,580.12. Using a formula of taking the average pay-out expense compared to expected retirements, the Union Vacation and Sick Leave Fund is under-funded. Four to five Union employees are expected to retire over the next five to seven years. Town Manager Craig Wheeler

## ARTICLE 21: TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUND

### AUTHORITY

This article requests voters to enact State RSA 35:9-a II, which gives the Trustees the authority to pay for professional banking or brokerage assistance fees out of Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs). Trustees currently hold, manage and invest both public and private funds (1), but currently they only have this authority for private funds (Cemetery, Scholarship, etc.). (2)

Two alternative ways to pay these fees would be to return to the voters each year with a warrant article request, or ask the Board of Selectmen and the School Board to place line items in their Operating Budgets. These two options would raise the funds for the fees through taxation every year.

If this article is approved, it cannot be reversed by the voters for a period of five years. (3)

Currently the Capital Reserve Funds that will be affected are held in no-fee accounts at Century Bank and are paying \$0.50% in interest on a balance of about \$4.6 million dollars in School, Town and Water CRFs. (4)

Tax cost if this warrant article passes is Zero. Impact to Capital Reserve Funds will depend upon the amount of fees drawn each year from the fund and the gains or losses in stocks and bonds should the trustees choose to invest in these markets. (5)

**A YES vote** will authorize the Trustees of the Trust Funds to use Town and/or School and or Water Department Capital Reserve Fund money to fund the cost of professional investment services and advice.

**A NO vote** will prohibit the Trustees from using Town and/or School and/or Water Department Capital Reserve Fund money to fund the cost of professional investment advice and services.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To attempt to improve the amount of interest earned on Capital Reserve Fund investments and to attempt to prevent erosion of the funds by inflation
- To enable expanding the current investment policy for Capital Reserve Funds to include investing in the stock market and bond market
- Elected Trustees have said that they need investment advice because they currently do not have the financial expertise to invest other than in CDs, savings or checking accounts.
- To provide professional assistance to the Trustees of the Trust Funds in management of Capital Reserve Fund investments

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- To prohibit the Trustees of the Trust Funds from using Capital Reserve Funds or interest earned for professional investment services and advice
- To seek to avoid any potential loss of principal or interest due to investment losses, and to continue to place Capital Reserve Funds in non-risk accounts such as CDs, savings or checking accounts
- To avoid paying investment fees

- Since the Capital Improvement Plan is currently underfunded, withdrawals take place every year which limits the investment horizon (time funds can be left to grow).

**References:**

- (1) Kevin Woods, Trustee.
- (2) See RSA 35:9-a II: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/iii/35/35-mrg.htm>. A Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) is a savings account for scheduled Capital Improvement (CIP) purchases. The School CIP policy is to save for items that cost more than \$10,000 (more than \$2,500 for Food Service items). The Town CIP policy is to save for items that cost more than \$15,000. Both School and Town items must have a five-year or longer life span.
- (3) This allows the Trustees to maintain a relationship with a brokerage firm for at least five years if they so choose.
- (4) End of 2015 year CRF balance for School CRFs: \$788,897, Town CRFs: \$1,406,121 and Water CRFs \$427,990.
- (5) Investment advisory fees are based on the total amount of dollars invested. Raymond Trustees of the Trust Funds Investment Policy: see [http://www.raymondnh.gov/boards/trustees\\_funds/trustees\\_funds\\_58\\_3060837269.pdf](http://www.raymondnh.gov/boards/trustees_funds/trustees_funds_58_3060837269.pdf)

**ARTICLE 22: APPOINT TOWN TREASURER**

This article changes the Office of Town Treasurer from elected to appointed after recommendation by the Town Manager with approval by the Board of Selectmen. If the article is approved, the change will take effect on March 7, 2017. (1)

Whether elected or appointed, "The town treasurer is responsible for the custody, deposit and disbursement of town funds in compliance with detailed statutory standards." (3) The town treasurer's work is audited annually by an independent auditor whose report is available to the public. Tax cost: zero (\$0.0).

**A YES VOTE** means that the town treasurer will be appointed after recommendation by the Town Manager with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, starting March 7, 2017.

**A NO VOTE** means that the town treasurer will continue to be elected.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To place the Office of Town Treasurer under the supervision of the Town Manager
- To give the Board of Selectmen the authority to approve procedures for town treasurer responsibilities (3)
- The position will require submission of an application, allowing a more thorough vetting process

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- To keep the Office of Town Treasurer under the control of voters
- To maintain separation of authority between those who present and manage the town's budget (Board of Selectmen) and those with custody of the town's money and accounting books (Office of Town Treasurer)

**References**

- (1) Raymond's current town treasurer will finish a three year term in March 2017. This is a paid position with a current stipend of \$3,400. The per-hour pay works out to be less than \$10/hour to be responsible for around \$10 million in funds. Town Treasurer, Ed French. See RSA 41.26-e "Such appointment shall be made. . . in the case of a town operating under RSA 37 upon recommendation of the town manager with approval of the board of selectmen." See also Raymond Town Code 41-1: Adoption of Town Manager Plan under RSA 37: See RSA 669:17-d Discontinuing Office of Elected Treasurer.
- (2) RSA 48:16 II Treasurer Duties: "The city treasurer shall keep in suitable books . . . a fair and correct account of all sums received into and paid from the city treasury, and of all notes . . . At the close of each fiscal year, the treasurer shall make a report to the city giving a particular account of all his or her financial transactions during the year and account balances at year end. The treasurer shall furnish to the mayor and council statements from the treasurer's books, and submit the books and vouchers to them and to the city auditors for examination, whenever so requested." [This statute also applies to Towns and their Selectmen.]
- (3) See RSA 41:9 Selectmen Financial Duties. RSA 41:9VI. "The selectmen shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining appropriate internal control procedures to ensure the safeguarding of all town assets and properties."

**ARTICLE 23: Repurpose New Water Treatment Facility CRF**

This article asks the voters to change the name and purpose of the existing "New Water Treatment Facility Capital Reserve Fund (CRF)" to "Construct, Repair and Maintain Town Water Treatment Facility CRF" so that existing and future funds deposited in this account can be used over the next two years for upgrades to the

existing Town Water Treatment Plant on Cider Ferry Road. This treatment plant is 11 years into an estimated life span of 25 years, and it is hoped that the upgrades will extend the life of the plant and also stabilize maintenance costs. Routine maintenance costs will continue to be paid from the Operating Budget. (1)

The balance in this Capital Reserve Fund is \$103,832. The bond for the Cider Ferry Water Treatment Plant was for \$1,125,000. The bond will be paid off in June 2024. Tax cost is zero (\$0) for this warrant article since town water users fund Water Department Capital Reserve Funds.

**A YES vote** will enable these CRF funds to be used for repair and maintenance of the current Town Water Treatment Facility.

**A NO vote** will continue to restrict these funds to be used only to construct a new Town Water Treatment Facility.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To fund needed repairs, maintenance and upgrades to the current Town Water Treatment Plant to attempt to extend its life and stabilize maintenance
- To plan to bond for the cost of a new Town Water Treatment Plant when this plant is no longer usable, rather than save for it in the Capital Improvement Plan
- To save on labor maintenance costs by adding permanent scaffolding (1)
- Since water in the new Well #4 has tested high quality, it is anticipated that any treatment or treatment facility needs will be minimal (2)

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- To continue to save for a new Town Water Treatment Plant
- To avoid the expense associated with bonding

**References:**

- (1) Steve Brewer, Director, Department of Public Works. Needed upgrades to the Cider Ferry plant include supplementing the filtration media, replacing the chlorinator, cleaning the backwash lagoons near the plant (a state mandated procedure), upgrading the Master Control Panel and SCADA system, cleaning raw water feed lines and making plumbing modifications to do that, chemically cleaning the aeration tower, replacing pumps and blowers, fabricating an aeration head replacement, and installing permanent scaffolding to facilitate plant maintenance. The total cost of upgrades is estimated at \$103,000.
- (2) Steve Brewer, Director, Department of Public Works. The new Town Well #4 is nearing the end of the state permitting process; the pump test analysis has shown clean water with little need for treatment.

**ARTICLE 24: CIP COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY**

This article amends Warrant Article #17 from 2008 (1) to direct that the Selectmen appoint all members of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), including the three citizens at large. The makeup and the purpose of the committee will not change. Currently all members of the committee are appointed by the Planning Board. (2)

**A YES vote** will direct the Selectmen to appoint CIP Committee members.

**A NO vote** will continue to direct the Planning Board to appoint CIP Committee members.

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

- To bring the appointment of CIP Committee members into compliance with state law, which states that the governing body (the Board of Selectmen) shall appoint all members to the CIP Committee. (3)

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

- To leave the current appointment process in place

**References:**

- (1) Town of Raymond Warrant Article 17 (2008): "Shall the Town of Raymond vote to re-establish a CIP Committee for the purpose of managing the Capital Improvements Plan, and giving the Board of Selectmen and the School Board recommendations on what is included in the plan, and how much should be funded each year. This committee will be composed of the following: Two Selectmen, Two School Board Members, Two Budget Committee Members, Two Planning Board Members and three Citizens at large appointed by the Planning Board for a three (3) year period. The committee makeup and purpose will remain in effect until dissolved or changed by the vote of the citizens at town meeting or annual vote. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen." YES 917 NO 360.
- (2) According to the Raymond Planning Board Legal Counsel
- (3) See RSA 674:5

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**Town Warrant**

1	Candidate Choices.....		
2	Zoning: Building Setbacks in Zone B.....	Y	N
3	Zoning: Shed Setbacks.....	Y	N
4	Zoning: C-3 Residential Buildings.....	Y	N
5	Zoning: Plot Plan Requirements.....	Y	N
6	Zoning: Impact Fee Approval Authority.....	Y	N
7	Town Water Well Bond.....	Y	N
8	DPW Vehicle Bond.....	Y	N
9	Town Operating Budget.....	Y	N
10	Town Employee Contract.....	Y	N
11	Town Employee Contract Special Meeting.....	Y	N
12	Scholarships.....	Y	N
13	Social Service Agencies.....	Y	N
14	Mosquito Control.....	Y	N
15	Town Capital Improvement Funds.....	Y	N
16	Water Capital Reserve Funds.....	Y	N
17	Shim/Overlay Road Fund.....	Y	N
18	Road Reconstruction .....	Y	N
19	Vacation/Sick Leave Non-Union.....	Y	N
20	Vacation/Sick Leave Union.....	Y	N
21	Trustee of the Trust Fund Authority.....	Y	N
22	Appoint Town Treasurer.....	Y	N
23	Repurpose New Water Treatment Plant Fund.....	Y	N
24	Capital Improvements Committee Appointing Authority.....	Y	N

**School Warrant**

1	Candidate Choices.....		
2	Elementary School Addition.....	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
3	School Operating Budget.....	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
4	Teachers Contract.....	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
5	Teachers Contract Special Meeting.....	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
6	School Capital Improvement Fund .....	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
7	Citizens Petition for Afterschool Program .....	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

**SEE YOU AT THE POLLS!**

**Iber Holmes Gove**

**Middle School**

**Epping Road at School Street**

**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

**7 AM to 7 PM**

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