



RAYMOND

VOTER

INFORMATION

PROJECT

2010

Vote
on Tuesday
March 9th !

VOTE ...but first
read this booklet.

Then check out :
www.raymondvip.info

Welcome to the Raymond Voter Information Project and our first annual edition of our voter information guide.

This project began in May 2009 when a group of concerned Raymond citizens met to consider what then seemed an impossible task:

- gather comprehensive, objective information on warrant articles and candidates
- scrupulously weed out bias
- deliver it prior to election to voters hungry for details

Along the way, we formed a nonprofit organization, set goals, hammered out bylaws, debated our direction, contemplated everything from funding to editorial policy, and launched our work.

What you see here may not be perfect, but we are doing our best to serve our community with objective election information. We welcome your suggestions for future issues and invite you to respond via our website at:

www.raymondvip.info

If you like what you see, consider joining the **Raymond Voter Information Project** or making a donation so that our work may continue.

With deep appreciation, we thank our charter members, officers, and our spokesperson who told our story all around Raymond. We thank our writers and our editorial committee who gave endless hours to review submitted articles, as well as our beloved internet geek and our print media layout guru. Last, but not least, we thank the Raymond public servants and citizens who provided us with information and supported our work.

Remember to
VOTE
at the IHG Middle School
on March 9, 2010

Carolyn Matthews, President
Raymond Voter Information Project

www.raymondvip.info

SCHOOL WARRANT

SCHOOL ARTICLE 1

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

For information on the candidates, go to www.raymondvip.info

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SCHOOL ARTICLE 2

SCHOOL BUDGET

NOTE: At the school deliberative session on Jan. 30, 2010, the school budget was amended from \$21,978,341 to \$22,060,620.

The school district is proposing a \$22,060,620 budget for the 2010-2011 school year. The School Board incorporated mandatory increases due to health insurance costs and the support staff contract by making reductions in the current faculty and supporting staff. Also incorporated into the proposed budget is a program to service autistic students that are either currently placed outside of the school district or who have the potential to be placed outside of the school district. If this budget were to fail, the default budget of \$22,296,956 would be adopted. (1) The proposed budget reflects a tax of \$22.00 per thousand of tax valuation; the default budget reflects a tax of \$22.24 per thousand of tax valuation. (2)

More detailed information, including a PowerPoint presentation regarding the school budget, can be found at:

<http://www.sau33.com/schoolboard.htm>

A **YES VOTE** raises \$22,060,620 to fund the 2010 -2011 school budget.

A **NO VOTE** raises \$22,296,956 (the default budget) to fund the 2010-2011 school budget.

Pro:

- Proposed budget implements reductions to staffing based on student enrollment but maintains current services.
- Program for autistic students will allow these students to remain at their home school and potentially save current and future tax dollars. District estimates savings of more than \$280,000.

Con:

- The default budget would give the school district more money with which to work.
- The proposed budget reflects an increase of 1 cent on the current tax rate.

References:

1. The default budget is the previous year's budget plus obligations due to contracts or legally mandated expenses (i.e., pensions, special education services).
2. Ron Brickett, SAU 33 Business Administrator

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SCHOOL ARTICLE 3
TEACHERS' CONTRACT

The Raymond Education Association and the Raymond School Board have negotiated a 2-year contract that offers an average increase of 2.9% for the teachers. Teachers would pay 18% of their chosen health plan in the second year of the contract. The proposed warrant article is for \$128,368 which reflects a total tax of \$0.13 per thousand of tax valuation for the first year of the contract. (1) For the second year of the contract (2011-2012) the cost is estimated to be \$173,282.

A **YES VOTE** raises the amount of \$128,638 to fund the change in salaries for the 2010-2011 school year.

A **NO VOTE** will leave the teachers without a negotiated contract for the upcoming school year.

Pro:

- This would make Raymond teachers more competitive with other districts in NH.(2)

Con:

- 2.9% average increase for teachers (less additional cost they pay for health plan).

References:

1. Ron Brickett, SAU 33 Business Administrator
2. The average teacher salary in the state of NH for 2008-2009 school year was \$50,128. The average teacher salary in Raymond was \$45,163. From NHDoe Staffing and Salary Reports.



SCHOOL ARTICLE 4
SPECIAL MEETING

If article 3 does not pass, this article would grant permission to the School District to call one special meeting to address teacher contract cost items.

A **YES VOTE** would allow one special meeting.

A **NO VOTE** would not allow any additional meetings.



SCHOOL ARTICLE 5
CAPITAL RESERVE

This article would raise \$221,997 for four School District Capital Reserve Funds (CRF), which reflects a tax of \$0.22 per thousand of tax valuation, the same as last year. (1) The intention of a capital reserve fund is to purchase or save towards the purchase of higher priced, durable equipment/resources.

A **YES VOTE** raises \$221,997 for the purpose of expending monies in the 4 funds listed in Article 5, either in the 2010-2011 school year or another time in the future.

A **NO VOTE** would not fund the School District CRFs for the current year.

Pro:

- The continued funding of CRFs allows our school district to save towards more expensive projects.

- Actively funding the CRF allows the town to charge impact fees on certain school construction projects.(2)

Con:

- A defeat of this article would decrease taxes by \$0.22 per thousand of tax valuation.

References:

1. Ron Brickett, SAU 33 Business Administrator
2. Impact fees are one time fees assessed by the town on certain types of new development in order to compensate the town for increased demand on public facilities (currently schools and roads).



TOWN WARRANT

ARTICLE 1

CANIDIDATES

For information on the town candidates, go to www.raymondvip.info



ARTICLE 2: ZONING AMENDMENT 1

FLUVIAL EROSION HAZARDS

Fluvial Erosion Hazards (FEH) are as simple as riverbank picnic tables swept downstream to block a culvert, or as complex as sudden, catastrophic movement of a stream or river that cuts a destructive new channel. FEH Zones contain specific river/stream areas determined to have a moderate to extreme sensitivity to high-velocity flood erosion and/or a likelihood of causing erosion further downstream.

A **YES VOTE** will add safety measures within newly mapped FEH Zones located in Raymond along the Exeter River and its tributary, Fordway Brook.(1)

A **NO VOTE** will leave these newly mapped FEH Zones less protected.

Pro:

- Goal of 2009 Raymond Master Plan(2) and 2009 Raymond Hazard Mitigation Plan.(3)
- FEH protects against damaging floodwater common in Raymond every one to two years, such as the erosion at Fordway/Lane Road.(4)
- Low-cost, high-return flood hazard prevention tool that can save tax dollars for future damage repairs such as the Suncook River restoration = \$1.3 million.(5)
- No cost to taxpayers for river study, maps, extensive DES technical help.(6)
- Using hazard data as soon as available protects citizens, property and emergency workers, and enables the Planning Board to keep subdivisions out of FEH harm's way.(7)
- Protection now is most cost-effective while Fordway/Exeter still has low density development.(8)
- Increased potential for grant money for 19 culvert and other restoration projects.(9)

- Lower flood insurance rates since FEMA rewards FEH as a “higher standard” once Raymond completes its application for the free Community Rating System Program.(10)
- Endorsements for FEH ordinance: FEMA, 2009 NH Legislation (HB 290), NH Public Safety, Transportation, Environmental Services, Geological Survey, Homeland Security and Emergency Management; NH Associated General Contractors.(11)
- Adds protection for water quality(12)

Con:

- Limits development allowed on portions of lots within the hazard zone for several residential and one commercial property in mapped FEH Zone areas.(13)
- Requires landowner who wishes to exceed his allowed development options within the FEH Zone to seek a Planning Board administered permit.
- Requires a landowner who wishes to build in a prohibited zone, or question the FEH boundary on his property, to appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- May add to developer’s survey and engineering costs if FEH boundary must be surveyed on FEH zoned land.
- Requires additional record keeping by the Code Enforcement officer.
- May require developer to alter his site plan to keep his development out of FEH Zone.
- FEH ordinance untested elsewhere in NH

References:

1. Raymond's Fordway Brook/Exeter River Watershed is located south of Rte 101 & drains 1/3 of Raymond
2. Raymond Master Plan (2009) p. 24 Vol. 1 Raymond Hazard Mitigation Plan (2009)
3. Raymond Hazard Mitigation Plan (2009), p. ix and 80
4. EXETER RIVER GEOMORPHIC ASSESSMENT AND WATERSHED-BASED PLAN, 3/2009, NH DES, p. 52.
5. Steve Landry, NH Department Environmental Services
6. Shane Csiki, NH Geological Survey, FEH Program Leader in NH
7. Jack Munn, Southern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission
8. EXETER RIVER GEOMORPHIC ASSESSMENT AND WATERSHED-BASED PLAN, 3/2009, NH DES, p. 31, p. 44
9. EXETER RIVER GEOMORPHIC ASSESSMENT AND WATERSHED-BASED PLAN, 3/2009, NH DES, p. 63
10. Jimmy Chinn, FEMA Community Rating System Regional Director.
11. Non-profit trade organization in existence since 1949.
12. EXETER RIVER GEOMORPHIC ASSESSMENT AND WATERSHED-BASED PLAN, 3/2009, NH DES, p. 5
13. To examine the following impacts of the ordinance on landowners, see the proposed Fluvial Erosion Hazard Overlay District amendment and the FEH maps located at www.raymondnh.com



ARTICLE 3: ZONING AMENDMENT 2

ZONE A - EMERGENCY WATER LINE

This article would give the planning board time to plan for orderly development of land served by new town water mains extending from Batchelder Road to the area adjacent to the Mottolo Superfund site. Generally homes built in residential areas not served by town water must have at least 2 acres, 200 feet of road frontage and be at least 50 feet from all property lines. In residential areas served by town water, known as Zone A, homes require ½ acre, 100 feet of road frontage and be at least 25 feet back from the road and 10 feet from other boundaries.(1)

Historically, when new water lines are installed, the residentially zoned land along the route is automatically rezoned so that it can be developed with the smaller lot size, road frontage and setbacks.

A **YES VOTE** maintains current zoning in the Mottolo neighborhoods for 18 months.

A **NO VOTE** may allow immediate Zone A designation once the water line is in place.

Pro:

- The Planning Board would have 18 months to respond to these circumstances and allow time for public comment.
- Temporary moratoriums on changes are the usual way to handle such cases.(2)

Con:

- Landowners would not be able to exercise their new development rights immediately.
- Passage may delay higher density development that otherwise might allow landowners to take advantage of the requirements for properties served by Town water.

References:

1. Raymond Zoning Ordinance 3.210, 4.100, 5.100
2. Town Counsel



ARTICLE 4: ZONING AMENDMENT 3

IMPACT FEES CHANGE

Impact Fees are one-time fees assessed by the Town of Raymond on certain types of new development in order to compensate the town for increased demand on public services (currently schools and roads). This amendment will add clarifying language to 7.504.0(1) to explain that “new development” categories are listed in 7.503 (a-d) and adds a reminder that the Planning Board must develop a method by which it will make assessments before collecting on a particular category of fee.

A **YES VOTE** supports this clarification.

A **NO VOTE** leaves the present wording in place.

No PRO/CON: administrative only.

Reference:

1. Raymond Zoning Ordinance for Impact Fee



ARTICLE 5: ZONING AMENDMENT 4

SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

This amendment will require residential sprinkler systems in new single and two family dwellings and in any residential “substantial renovations” (greater than 50% of the tax card valuation). Currently, sprinkler systems are optional for one and two family homes and residential renovations but are required for commercial, industrial and multi-family homes.(1) National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has adopted the 2009 International Residential Code that includes sprinkler systems in all residential buildings. State of NH presently operates under the 2003 NFPA code which does not require residential sprinklers. State may opt to retain the 2003 NFPA code and continue to allow towns to make their own decision.

A **YES VOTE** will require sprinkler systems in new single and two family dwellings and for any residential “substantial renovations” over 50%.

A **NO VOTE** will continue to require sprinklers only for commercial, industrial and multi-family homes.

Pro:

- Provides 10 minute escape time for residents and may protect emergency workers since fire may already be out when they arrive.(2)
- Over last five years, due to sprinklers, two Raymond lives were saved in an apartment over a commercial building, and substantial damage was prevented in another building.(3)
- Since 50% renovation triggers bringing a house up to all current codes, 50% would apply to sprinklers as well.(4)
- Minimizes property damage since today's fires flash faster (one minute) and since Raymond's emergency response time slows in the evening, especially after midnight, on weekends, and in winter months, so firefighters usually cannot arrive quickly enough to prevent substantial home damage.(5)
- Amendment may help to forestall need for Raymond fire substations and allow subdivisions with longer roads than currently permitted.
- Homeowner insurance may cover leaks from malfunctions in sprinkler heads.
- Annual maintenance can be done by the homeowner.
- Sprinklers can lower home insurance costs 8 to 13% (depending on agent/company).(6)
- Sprinkler heads act independently; one room fire = one sprinkler head discharge.

Con:

- Adds to new house cost for developer and/or homeowner approximately \$1.64 to \$1.90 per sq. ft. (\$2,460 to \$2850 for 1500 sq. ft. home) depending on type and water source. Renovation costs for older homes or complex situations would be higher.(7)
- Decision to hire out annual maintenance work incurs costs to homeowner.
- Sprinkler systems, like all household plumbing, can develop leaks.
- Shut off not automatic; if no one hears external alarm, sprinkler can discharge till empty (approximately 300 gallons over 10 minutes).(8)
- Some insurance companies and/or agents offer no discount.
- Power failure = sprinkler pump failure unless homeowner has backup/town water.

References:

1. Raymond Zoning Ordinance 8.110

2. Dept. Homeland Security, US Fire Administration
3. Raymond town fire records
4. Code Enforcement Officer Richard Mailhot
5. Fire Chief Kevin Pratt
6. Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO), verified by Kevin Pratt: some Raymond agents offer discounts
7. ISO, verified by Kevin Pratt
8. Kevin Pratt

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 6: ZONING AMENDMENT 5

DISABILITY ACCESS/ADA STRUCTURES

If the Raymond Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) determines that a disability access structure is needed for a disabled person to gain access, and it will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Ordinance, the CEO may grant a permit for the disability structure without requiring a certified plot plan and/or strict adherence to the area size and setback rules. This structure may remain until no one living in or regularly using the house at the time the permit was granted needs it in order to access the home. Applicants would continue to apply to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) for a variance if the Code Enforcement Officer is unable to make a determination or denies the permit.

A **YES VOTE** will speed up the process by which homeowners with disabled residents may seek approval to add wheelchair ramps or similar temporary disability access structures.

A **NO VOTE** will continue to require these homeowners to request a hearing to seek relief before the ZBA.

Pro:

- Helps the Raymond Zoning Ordinance comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.(1)
- Simplifies the process by which an applicant obtains a permit for a disabilities structure.

Con:

- Requires additional record keeping by the Code Enforcement Officer (CEO).
- May be difficult to enforce removal of ramp.

References:

1. See NH RSA 674.33.V, the Raymond Zoning Ordinance 8.100.03.d, and the Americans with Disabilities Act 42 U.S.C. 812132

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 7: ZONING AMENDMENT 6

ZBA TIME LIMITS

A landowner may seek “relief” from zoning rules by asking Raymond’s Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) to grant a Variance (to relax the rules) or grant a Special Exception (if allowed under the rule). This amendment will require the landowner who receives a Variance or a Special Exception to either substantially complete (1) his project within 4 years or return to the ZBA to request an extension of time. If more than 4 years go by, factors that originally justified ZBA relief may change to the point that the relief would no longer be justified.

A **YES VOTE** requires the applicant to achieve substantial completion within 4 years.

A **NO VOTE** will continue to allow approved Variances and Special Exceptions without expiration dates.

Pro:

- Provides better communication with applicants and abutters.
- Once substantial completion occurs, the Variance and/or Special Exception is permanent and the landowner may fully complete his project on his own time schedule without returning to the ZBA.

Con:

- Landowners will need to reapply to the ZBA if they decide to delay their projects.
- Requires additional record keeping by the Raymond Code Enforcement Officer to track expiration dates.
- Requires additional record keeping by the landowner, to track expiration dates.

References:

1. The definition of “substantial completion” for a particular Variance or Special Exception is set by the ZBA at the time the landowner applies.



ARTICLE 8: ZONING AMENDMENT 7

ZBA GENERAL REVISIONS

This article would amend the Raymond Zoning Ordinance to clarify wording to make it consistent with state law. The definition of variance currently in the ordinance includes a list of criteria a property owner must meet to get a variance. This article would replace that list with a reference to Article IX, Section 9.300 of the ordinance, where the criteria are explained in detail.

A **YES VOTE** clarifies the language.

A **NO VOTE** leaves the present wording in place.

No Pro/Con. ADMINISTRATIVE ONLY.



ARTICLE 9: ZONING AMENDMENT 8

ZONE G CONSISTENCY

Zone G land is Protected Shore land, State Protected Waters, Steep Slopes, and Poorly/Very Poorly Drained Soils (Wetlands)(1) This amendment makes the zoning treatment of Zone G land the same whether it exists in Zone A (residential), Zone B (residential/agricultural), or Zone E (manufactured housing). It also prohibits using Zone G land when calculating the minimum amount of land needed and the maximum number of new dwelling units allowed.

A **YES VOTE** supports the consistent treatment of Zone G land in Zones A, B & E.

A **NO VOTE** keeps current formulas that allow Zone G use.

Pro:

- Consistent with 2009 Raymond Master Plan Natural Resources goals.(2)
- Limits development on zoned A, B and E land that may be physically unable to support it due to its proximity to Zone G land.
- May help protect Raymond’s groundwater resources for clean drinking water since “the ability of vegetated wetland buffers to provide water quality protection increases with the size of the buffer.”(3)
- Reduces opportunity for legal challenge due to inconsistent use of Zone G land.
- Easier for developers to understand and apply.
- Easier for staff to administer.(4)
- Matches NH DES recommendation that development density for dwelling unit should be determined by “subtracting the area of ...fragile features and critical natural resources, in whole or in part, from the area that can be counted toward the density calculation.”(5)

Con:

- May lower developer’s profit margin and/or raise the cost of planned dwelling units.
- May promote longer roads for snow plow/school bus/firefighter/police by increasing amount of land needed for each dwelling.
- Excluding Zone G may make some lots too small to subdivide.
- Current calculation formulas for Zone G land in Conservation Subdivisions, approved last year by the Planning Board and the voters, would be eliminated without having been tested.

References:

1. Raymond Zoning Ordinance 3.320.02. See also definitions in 2.100
2. 2009 Raymond Master Plan p. 21-3
3. Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques: A Handbook for Sustainable Development 10/2008 Compiled by NH Dept. Environmental Services (NH DES), NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions, NH Office of Energy & Planning, NH Municipal Association, p. 200.
4. Richard Mailhot, Code Enforcement Officer
5. ILUPT p. 39-40



ARTICLE 10

MOTTOLO WATER LINE BOND

This article would authorize the Town to raise and bond \$2.5 million to build a water line to the neighborhood surrounding the contaminated Mottolo Superfund Site, a former Blueberry Hill Road pig farm where over 1,600 containers of chemical wastes were dumped. Despite extensive efforts over the years to clean up the site, in July 2009, five residential wells were found to have elevated levels of contaminants. (1) Affected residents currently receive bottled water and/or well water treatment systems from the state as an interim solution.

A **YES VOTE** would enable the town to build the water line and seek federal reimbursement.

A **NO VOTE** means that a clean water solution may be delayed for at least two years while the NH DES continues to test the site to confirm the source of the contamination and the migration of the contaminants.

Pro:

- The water line extension would eliminate concern about contamination in the residential well water supplies that may depress area property values and negatively impact Raymond's tax revenues.
- Funding a water line extension would bring a long-term clean water supply to the Blueberry Hill area.
- Businesses and residents along the new line could tie into town water.

Con:

- If federal reimbursement is not available, the water line extension could raise the property tax rate by as much as \$0.20 per \$1,000 of property value, the equivalent of \$40 per year additional tax on a \$200,000 home in 2011. The cost to taxpayers would get smaller every year as the bond is paid off.
- Residents who hook up to the new water main will have to hire a contractor and pay connection fees. The estimated cost to connect a home is \$4,000.
- The federal solution likely will include only those homes that have wells that are proven to be directly affected by the Mottolo site.

Reference:

1. <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/hwrb/fss/superfund/index.htm>

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 11

NEW WELL BOND

This article authorizes the Selectmen to raise up to \$300,000 to install new wells for public water supply. The cost of the wells will be paid for by homes and businesses that are on the Town water supply system through water rates. The water department may have some or all of the money to pay for the new wells by the time it gets the permits to install them, meaning the Selectmen may not have to borrow the full authorized amount. The sooner the town installs new wells, the less complex and costly the permitting process.

A **YES VOTE** on this article will authorize the Selectmen to raise up to \$300,000 to develop new wells.

A **NO VOTE** means that the Town may have to postpone developing new wells until the water department accumulates the full cost of development through water rates.

Pro:

- The Town can permit and install new water supply wells before more stringent and costly state regulations are adopted.
- The new wells will provide enough water to meet the growing needs of current water users as well as future development.
- The new wells will be installed in an area separate from the existing Town wells. If the existing wells become unusable for any reason, the Town has water from a different source.

Con:

- Passage of the article may increase water rates.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 12

TOWN OPERATING BUDGET

The town is proposing a \$6,849,980 operating budget, which does not include appropriations for other special warrant articles voted on separately. If this budget were to fail, the default budget of \$6,906,903 would be adopted which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous actions of the Town of Raymond or by law. The proposed budget reflects a tax of \$3.85 per thousand of tax valuation; the default budget reflects a tax of \$3.90 per thousand of tax valuation. (1)

A **YES VOTE** raises \$6,849,980 to fund the 2010 town operating budget.

A **NO VOTE** raises \$6,906,903 (the default budget) to fund the 2010 town operating budget.

Pro:

- Proposed budget is .05 cents per thousand of tax valuation less than the default budget.

Con:

- The default budget would give the town an additional \$56,923 to maintain funds.

References:

1. More detailed information regarding the default budget of the Town can be found at:
www.raymondnh.gov.admin/voter_info_12_22281838.pdf
Raymond Financial Office

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 13

RAYMOND SCHOLARSHIP

Amended at Town Deliberative Session 2/6/10

This article raises and appropriates \$2,000 for Raymond High School graduating seniors **and any Raymond resident attending the first year of college.** Tax impact: .002 cents per \$1,000 of tax valuation. Same amount as last year. (1)

A **YES VOTE** will provide a \$2,000 Scholarship.

A **NO VOTE** will not fund the Scholarship this year.

NO **PRO/CON**: SELF/EXPLANATORY

References:

1. Raymond Finance Department

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 14

CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

A Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) is a savings account for the purchase of future items by town departments. This article raises and appropriates \$266,900 for the previously established CRFs at a cost of .27 cents per thousand of tax valuation which is a reduction of \$34,500 or .035 cents per thousand from last year.

A **YES VOTE** will add \$266,900 to the CRFs.

A **NO VOTE** will not add money to the CRFs.

Pro:

- CRFs are needed to allow impact fees to be collected. (1)
- Prevents a spike in future taxes when purchasing high cost items becomes necessary.

Con:

- High cost items can be financed by borrowing at interest, with a voter approved bond, as they are needed.
- Tax cost: .27 cents per \$1,000 of tax valuation. (2)

References:

1. Impact fees are one time fees assessed by the town on certain types of new development in order to compensate the town for increased demand on public facilities (currently schools and roads).
2. Raymond Finance Department

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 15

WATER DEPARTMENT ITEMS

A Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) is a savings account for the purchase of future items by town departments. This article raises and appropriates \$25,000 to be deposited in the water department's previously established CRFs. There is no tax impact since this is paid for by town water users only. (1)

A **YES VOTE** will put \$25,000 for the listed items in already established CRFs.

A **NO VOTE** will not add funds to the CRF for this year.

Pro:

- Money will be available for proper maintenance of wells and to purchase land and trucks if needed.

Con:

- None determined at this time.

References:

1. Raymond Finance Department

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 16

ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

This article raises and appropriates \$149,000 for road reconstruction projects as determined by the Public Works Director. Same amount as last year.

A **YES VOTE** will allow the town to continue their road reconstruction projects.

A **NO VOTE** will put road reconstruction behind schedule.

Pro:

- Will keep road maintenance on schedule.

Con:

- Tax cost: 15 cents per \$1000 of tax valuation.(1)

References:

1. Raymond Finance Office.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 17

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES

This article raises and appropriates \$84,347 for 15 Social Service agencies providing services to Raymond residents. Same amount as last year.

A **YES VOTE** will contribute to the Social Service agencies that serve Raymond residents.

A **NO VOTE** will not provide any Raymond funding to these agencies.

Pro:

- Helps to defray the costs of agencies serving Raymond

Con:

- Tax cost: .084 cents per \$1,000 of tax valuation. (1)

References:

1. Raymond Finance Department

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 18

MOSQUITO CONTROL

This article raises and appropriates \$54,075 for the purpose of monitoring and controlling mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus and EEE, primarily by larvicide and limited emergency fall spraying of public assembly areas. Same amount as last year. A variable-amount state grant (2009: \$1,962) may reduce tax impact.

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

A **NO VOTE** would eliminate the mosquito control program in Raymond.

Pro:

- Reduces risk of West Nile Virus and EEE infection.

Con:

- Tax cost: .054 cents per \$1,000 of tax valuation. (2)

References:

1. Richard Mailhot, Town of Raymond Health Officer
2. Town of Raymond Finance Department

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 19

REVALUATION

This article will designate \$20,000 from the Town's unreserved fund balance to pay for a scheduled portion of the state mandated town-wide property revaluation.

A **YES VOTE** will fund this year's installment of the revaluation.

A **NO VOTE** will cause a shortfall in the funding for the required revaluation.

Pro:

- No new tax impact.(1)
- Town will have sufficient funds on hand to pay for a revaluation in 2011, and will avoid possible fines levied by the state for noncompliance.

Con:

- None determined at this time.

References:

1. Chris Rose, Raymond Town Manager

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 20

SNOWMOBILES

This article would allow snowmobiling on several town parcels during the winter when state snowmobile trail #15 (old railway bed) gates are open.

A **YES VOTE** will approve snowmobiling in expanded areas.

A **NO VOTE** will continue to keep these areas closed to snowmobiling.

Pro:

- Expands local snowmobiling opportunities

Con:

- Increases possibility of damage to town land if insufficient snow.
- Parking opportunities might be limited.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 21

OHRV USE ON BALD HILL

Amended at Town Deliberative Session 2/6/10

This article would allow Off Highway Recreational Vehicle (OHRV), **exclusive of two-cycle wheeled vehicle (trail bike)** use on the town owned Bald Hill property (50 acres) and would give the Board of Selectmen the ability to regulate its use.

A **YES VOTE** signifies the desire of the voter to permit OHRV use on this property.

A **NO VOTE** signifies the desire of the voter to prohibit OHRV use on this property.

Pro:

- Provides a local area for OHRV users to ride
- Utilizes town-owned property for an additional recreation activity

Con:

- OHRV use degrades existing trails,(1) causing exposed rocks and erosion, damage to wetlands and off-trail use.
- The town does not receive any state funds from OHRV registrations for trail maintenance or enforcement.
- Lack of parking facilities for OHRV trailers.
- Excludes 2-cycle wheeled vehicles (trail bikes).

References:

1. 11/4/09 Conservation Commission and 2/1/09 Board of Selectmen presentations

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 22

RATIFY CEMETERY PLOT COSTS

This article would ratify previous Board of Selectmen actions to raise the cost of burial plots from \$175 to \$325 for a single lot, with 25 percent of the fee reserved for maintenance and upkeep, 50 percent put into an expendable trust for cemetery expansion, and 25 percent held in trust with only the interest used for perpetual care of the individual lot.

The Board of Selectmen thought it had the ability to establish cemetery lot rates; that authority, however, currently rests with voters at Town Meeting.

A **YES VOTE** would approve the Board of Selectmen’s action to increase the rates and change the allocation.

A **NO VOTE** would return the cost to \$175, with \$125 going to the expendable trust and \$50 going to perpetual care of the individual lot.

Pro:

- Legally raises cemetery lot fees and allocation changes.

Con:

- Voters have not given the Board of Selectmen authority to change cemetery rates.
- Burial plot price would increase by 86% over rates voted for in 1985 and by 30% over rates currently in use. (1)

References:

1. Chris Rose, Town Manager: The last legal vote, at Town Meeting in 1985 (Article 10) set the \$175 rate with the \$125/\$50 allocation.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 23

CEMETERY FUND ALLOCATION

Amended at Town Deliberative Session 2/6/10

This article would authorize the division of cemetery plot fees as follows: 50 percent to an expendable trust for maintenance and upkeep, 50 percent to an expendable trust for cemetery expansion.

A **YES VOTE** would require proceeds from the sale of cemetery lots to be divided as described above.

A **NO VOTE** would leave the proceeds divided at approximately 71% maintenance and upkeep, 29% percent expendable trust.

Pro:

- Burial plot proceeds would help maintain the cemetery as well as individual lots with perpetual care, requiring less expense to the general fund.
- Burial plot proceeds would help pay for cemetery expansion.

Con:

- The cemetery lawns and roads are already maintained as part of the general fund under the regular cemetery maintenance fund.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 24

CEMETERY FEE AUTHORITY

Amended at Town Deliberative Session 2/6/10

This article would discontinue the Cemetery Board of Trustees and authorize the Town Manager, subject to the direction of the Board of Selectmen, to increase cemetery plot fees after holding two public hearings.

A **YES VOTE** would give the Board of Selectmen the authority to increase the rate for cemetery lots.

A **NO VOTE** leaves the authority to set cemetery lot fees with the voters.

Pro:

- The public would have the chance to express their views on fee increase proposals at public hearings before the Board of Selectmen.
- A change in cemetery lot fees could be made as needed, rather than waiting up to a year for town meeting.
- Brings cemetery fee structure into compliance with state regulations in Title XXVI: chapter 289.

Con:

- Public hearing input is advisory only; voters would no longer be able to vote on cemetery rate increases.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 25

MOTTOLO CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Amended at Town Deliberative Session 2/6/10

“To see” is a tool approved by the New Hampshire Supreme Court for use at Deliberative Sessions to negate warrant articles.

Reference:

1. <http://www.courts.state.nh.us/supreme/opinions/2008/grant020.pdf>

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 26

NO DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS ON TOWN LAND LESS THAN 30 ACRES

Amended at Town Deliberative Session 2/6/10

This article would advise the Board of Selectmen that voters wish to prohibit discharge of firearms on town-owned parcels of 30 acres or less in close proximity to homes. It is advisory only. The Board of Selectmen has sole authority to regulate discharge of firearms on these parcels.

A **YES VOTE** affirms that a voter opposes discharge of firearms on town-owned parcels smaller than 30 acres.

A **NO VOTE** supports continuing to allow discharge of firearms only on currently designated town-owned land.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 27

DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

Amended at Town Deliberative Session 2/6/10

“To see” is a tool approved by the New Hampshire Supreme Court for use at Deliberative Sessions to negate warrant articles.

Reference:

1. <http://www.courts.state.nh.us/supreme/opinions/2008/grant020.pdf>

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 28

HUNTING WARRANT ARTICLE

This article would advise the Selectmen to allow hunting on all Town owned parcels that are alongside large tracts of land open to hunting and that meet the regulations of New Hampshire Fish and Game laws Title XVIII.(1) It is advisory only. The Board of Selectmen has sole authority to regulate hunting on these parcels.

A **YES VOTE** signals the desire to allow hunting on additional Town owned parcels.

A **NO VOTE** would maintain the current Town ordinance prohibiting the discharge of firearms on all Town owned land except for certain large parcels greater than 50 acres.

References:

1. NH RSA 207:3-a generally prohibits hunting within 300 feet of an occupied dwelling. Title XVIII includes NH RSA chapters 206 through 215-c, which may include additional restrictions.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 29

LAND USE CHANGE TAX

At a meeting on February 17, 2010, the Board of Selectmen set aside the Deliberative Session amendment of "to see" and reinstated Article 29. However, Town Counsel has advised that passage of Article 29 will have no effect. Currently Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) revenue, set by voters on March 11, 2008, apportions 50% of LUCT revenue to the General Fund and 50% to the Conservation Fund.

Article 29: Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 79-A:25-a which account for revenues received from the land use change tax in a fund separate from the general fund? Any unappropriated surplus remaining in the land use change tax fund, and any future land use change tax revenues shall immediately be deemed general fund revenue. This is a petition warrant article.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 30

YIELD TAX (TIMBER TAX) TO GENERAL FUND

This article would redirect the Yield Tax (timber tax) from the Conservation Fund into the General Fund for use for the town as determined by the Selectmen.

A **YES VOTE** shifts the timber tax into the General Fund.

A **NO VOTE** keeps the timber tax in the Conservation Fund.

Pro:

- Would make more money available to the General Fund.

Con:

- Would remove a source of income from the Conservation Fund.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 31

RESCIND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Amended at Town Deliberative Session 2/6/10

“To see” is a tool approved by the New Hampshire Supreme Court for use at Deliberative Sessions to negate warrant articles.

Reference:

1. <http://www.courts.state.nh.us/supreme/opinions/2008/grant020.pdf>

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 32

OHRV LAWS FOR TOWN LAND

Amended at Town Deliberative Session 2/6/10

“To see” is a tool approved by the New Hampshire Supreme Court for use at Deliberative Sessions to negate warrant articles.

Reference:

1. <http://www.courts.state.nh.us/supreme/opinions/2008/grant020.pdf>

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 33

CASSIER EASEMENT

The 370 acre Lillian Cassier Memorial Town Forest was purchased in March 1999 for \$160,000 stating that the “land [is] to be held in perpetuity by the Town of Raymond to be managed by the Raymond Conservation Commission”. (1) The Conservation Commission would like to complete the transaction necessary to protect the property for future generations by placing a conservation easement on the entire parcel. A conservation easement is a legally binding contract to protect the parcel's natural resources of ponds, streams, wetlands, forests and wildlife habitat in perpetuity and to prevent future sub-division or development. There is no tax impact. (2)

A **YES VOTE** would agree to put a conservation easement on this property.

A **NO VOTE** would maintain the current status of the property as unprotected from future land use changes.

Pro:

- Protects ponds, streams, wetlands and the aquifer that feeds the town's drinking water.
- Protects forest resources and habitat for wildlife.
- Open space for town residents to enjoy active and passive outdoor recreation.

- Satisfies the intent of the Cassier family when they sold the land to the town. (3)

Con:

- A conservation easement closes the property to all future development.

References:

1. March 19, 1999 Article #11 Town Warrant
2. Conservation Commission funds established per RSA 36-A:5 by Raymond voters for conservation uses and deemed not part of the General Fund by RSA 79-A:25 are currently adequate to cover one-time costs of transfer.
3. Letter from Cassier family on file with the Conservation Commission.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 34

AUDETTE ESTATES ACQUISITION AND CONSERVATION EASEMENT

The Conservation Commission would like to purchase and place a conservation easement on the 78 acre Audette Estates property, located between Smith Pond Road and Audette Road and abutting the Lillian Cassier Memorial Town Forest. Acquisition of this property would protect the existing aquifer and the Dudley Brook that flows into the Lamprey River. A conservation easement is a legally binding contract to protect the parcel's natural resources of ponds, streams, wetlands, forests and wildlife habitat in perpetuity and to prevent future sub-division or development. There is no tax impact. (1)

A **YES VOTE** on this article would signal the voter's desire to purchase the property and place a conservation easement on it.

A **NO VOTE** would maintain the current status of the property.

Pro:

- Protects ponds, streams, wetlands and the aquifer that feeds the town's drinking water.
- Protects forest resources and habitat for wildlife.
- Open space for town residents to enjoy active and passive outdoor recreation.
- Land in conservation easements does not cost the taxpayers for town and school services. (2)

Con:

- A conservation easement closes the property to all future development.
- The town currently receives \$149 annual tax revenue on this land. (3)

References:

1. Conservation Commission funds established per RSA 36-A:5 by Raymond voters for conservation uses and deemed not part of the General Fund by RSA 79-A:25 are currently adequate to cover purchase price and one-time costs.
2. Superintendent Dr. Jeanne Richards: Current (2008-09) annual per student cost to taxpayers: \$12,860.92.
3. Town tax records.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

This document is brought to the Raymond community free of charge by the:



Raymond Voter Information Project



P.O Box 813
Raymond, NH 03077
Spokesperson: Colleen West-Coates
Phone: 603-895-9444
www.raymondvip.info

★ We believe

- ★ the responsibility for good government rests on the shoulders of every citizen
- ★ a well informed voter has the greatest freedom of choice
- ★ it is possible to present objective voter information
- ★ the good of the Town of Raymond is best served when all its citizens participate in study, deliberation, and voting

★ We strive to

- ★ improve citizen access to comprehensive, complete, objective information on Raymond candidates, issues, and proposed warrant articles
- ★ encourage participation in Raymond's Deliberative Sessions and local elections
- ★ encourage citizens to seek public office

- ★ Our political policy is to neither support nor oppose any political party, candidate, or warrant article. Raymond Voter Information Project members speak here as citizens and not as members of any elected/appointed Town board.

Annual dues: \$20 (\$10 for additional family members or students). Donations appreciated.

FREE to Raymond Citizens

Courtesy of the ***Raymond Voter Information Project***

~ a New Hampshire non-profit corporation, funded by dues and donations ~

~ dedicated to citizen participation in local elections through the distribution of comprehensive, complete, objective information ~

We do not support or oppose any political party, candidate, or warrant article.

"A well informed voter has the greatest freedom of choice."

www.raymondvip.info