

Town Article 17 – Utility Reassessment Settlement Capital Reserve Fund

This article establishes a new CRF for the purpose of utility reassessment settlement, and funds it with \$200,000 from the UFB. Last year the town voted to move \$104,000 from the UFB to the previously-established one-time or cyclical procurement CRF for the purpose of paying the second payment to correct what was ruled to be the Town's overcharge for the tax assessment of utility poles, a situation that affected 70 other towns as well. (1)(2)(3) The Town was aware of the payment amount for the 2024 utility settlement and therefore utilized the cyclical procurement CRF.

Another lawsuit was filed for subsequent years and the towns are waiting for the outcome. The BOS aims to prepare for any potential reimbursements the Town may be liable for, as they anticipate these costs and expect them to be significant. To reduce future impact, the Town has contracted with a new utility assessor. The BOS must vote to approve the use of these funds, as they are listed as the agents to expend. (4)

There is no new tax impact because it comes from funds already collected and in the UFB.

A YES vote will establish the Utility Reassessment Settlement CRF and adds \$200,000 to it from the UFB.

A NO vote does not establish the new CRF, nor fund the utility reassessment settlement with money from the UFB this year.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To save for the expected next settlement without additional taxation
- To meet an expected legal obligation

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Don't want to save for this until more information is available from the courts
- Disagree with using UFB for this type of settlement

References:

1. BOS meeting 12/16/2024 at timestamp [1:05:21], <https://tinyurl.com/yhba3umz>
2. VIP 2024 Voter Information Guide, Article 31, <https://tinyurl.com/y9ewvbyx>
3. 2024 Town of Raymond Election Results, Article 31 passed 951-273, <https://tinyurl.com/4mzpw9cu>
4. BOS Recommendations, 2025 Voter Information Guide, 02/05/2025: <https://tinyurl.com/4cp63hdd>