

Get out and **VOTE** | Tuesday, March 8 at Raymond Middle School

ONLINE SURVEY INSIDE!

*Your Voting
Guide
for Local
Elections*



RESIDENT
Town of
Raymond



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RAYMOND

Voter Information

PROJECT

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

~ Raymond VIP Bylaws

2022

RAYMOND *Voter Information* PROJECT

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Welcome to the 13th annual edition of the Raymond Voter Information Project's voter information guide! Raymond Voter Information Project (RVIP) is a grassroots, nonprofit organization; we are not a Town or School District committee, but a separate entity made up of unpaid citizen volunteers. The RVIP provides links to town and school voter information as a courtesy.

This guide is provided as a comprehensive, non-biased tool for Raymond, NH Voters for use during the 2022 Town and School District Election Cycle. Each warrant article goes through a rigorous process of analysis, reading, researching, editing, bias checking, and proofreading (a few times!) before it becomes the final product you are now reading. This year's team of about 20 volunteers has easily spent a thousand hours from October through February to put this guide together.

We do our best to be comprehensive and objective. The RVIP neither supports nor opposes any political party, candidate, or warrant article. We provide tax information, but make no value judgment on it. Our mission, editorial policy, bylaws (and more) may be found on our newly updated, responsive website: www.raymondvip.org. To assist you in understanding the warrant articles, you may refer to the New Hampshire Statutes (RSA's) online by visiting: tinyurl.com/8rdkyu95.

Is the Voter Guide meeting our goals, and your needs as a voter? Please take a moment to complete this confidential, anonymous survey to help us improve future voter guides: tinyurl.com/4yfmrxb.

If you want to get involved, experience our method of analysis, and deepen your engagement in the election process, join our group of volunteers: tinyurl.com/4jrx2z4. We welcome all volunteers, whether you're an experienced writer, passionate about local issues, or just want to help inform fellow Raymond residents before they reach the voting booths.

We offer heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped complete this project. This project started with a group of concerned citizens, and now Raymond residents look forward to the guide every year! We simply could not complete this project without everyone who has helped through the years:

- The group of concerned citizens who formed this project back in 2009,
- Our current team of Raymond citizen volunteers,
- Town and School District staff and elected/appointed officials,
- Personal and Business donors, *and*
- In-Kind support from volunteers and other nonprofit organizations.

We hope that if you have found this guide useful, that you will consider making a donation to help continue this project. You may donate online safely via our website: www.raymondvip.org, or by mailing a check to the RVIP at PO Box 813, Raymond, NH 03077. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely,
Kathy Pouliot, President
Raymond Voter Information Project

*See you at the polls at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School.
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 7AM to 7PM*

Members of the Raymond Voter Information Project come from a broad range of careers and municipal experience, and have many personal viewpoints. However, within RVIP, they are committed to neither support nor oppose any political party, candidate or warrant article and to focus on providing objective voter information. RVIP is registered with the State of NH and with the Town of Raymond as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and a charitable trust.

SCHOOL WARRANT

The following Candidates’ names are in the order that will appear on the ballot that is determined by a random selection process in accordance with [RSA 656:5-a](#):

Two (2) School Board Members for 3-year terms:

Joe Saulnier
Cindy Bennett
Dawn Leamer
Matt Luquette

School Article 2 - Operating Budget

This article will raise and appropriate \$26,798,318 for the Raymond School District (SAU 33) 2022-2023 Operating Budget. Or, if the article fails, then the Default Budget is \$26,780,772, which is the same as last year’s budget with certain adjustments required by previous actions of Raymond School District or as required by law. (1) The amounts above do not include other money Warrant Articles on the ballot this year. If the Operating Budget Warrant Article fails and the Default Budget is in place, the School Board may revisit the Operating Budget and call one special meeting so voters will be able to vote on the revised budget per State statute. (2)

The proposed budget is an increase of \$560,561 (2.14%) over last year’s budget. This article will be reduced by \$51,658 if Article 5, the Raymond Educational Support Staff contract, is adopted. Student enrollment in Raymond schools, as of 12/31/2021, is 1,223 in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12.

The notable areas of increase include: \$152,307 for contracted student services including Psychological, Speech, Occupational, and Physical Therapies; \$18,036 for transportation per the existing contract; and \$231,813 in student tuition payments for out-of-district placements, and programs including Seacoast School of Technology (SST).

The notable areas of decrease are: \$93,399 which is a majority of the Curriculum Director position (includes salary and benefits) with remainder to fund a stipend (amount yet to be determined) for Curriculum Teams of teachers to complete some of the necessary work that would have been done by a Director; \$55,000 for Raymond High School (RHS) program Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) which will be deleted from the program of studies; and \$175,000 for salaries. Frequently, when longtime teachers retire, positions are filled by new teachers who often have less experience and, therefore, are lower on the pay scale.

Other changes to the budget, not noted above, include a proposal for adding a building-wide paraprofessional at RHS; the addition of some extracurricular activities at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School (IHGMS) and RHS; and changes to teacher and staff salaries as required by contracts, which are addressed in School Warrant Articles 3 and 5.

The estimated tax impact for the Operating Budget is an increase of \$0.36 per \$1000 of valuation, or an estimated increase of \$72.00 for a \$200,000 house.

The estimated tax impact of the Default Budget, if the Operating Budget were to fail, would be an increase of \$0.34 per \$1000 of valuation, or an estimated increase of \$68.00 for a \$200,000 house.

A YES vote raises \$26,798,318 to fund the 2022-23 School Operating Budget.

A NO vote raises \$26,780,772 to fund the Default Budget and gives the School Board the option of revising the Operating Budget and calling a special meeting for town citizens to vote on the new proposal.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Support the School Operating Budget.
- Agree with the changes to positions and/or programs as included in the Operating Budget.
- Support the need for students to receive services that are provided by Psychological, Speech, Occupational, Physical Therapists and Reading Specialists, often as required by a student’s Individualized Education Plan.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Disagree with the changes to or elimination of positions and/or

- programs as proposed by the Operating Budget.
- Prefer the lower cost Default Budget.
- Prefer the required program obligations are paid through cuts made elsewhere in non-required items.

References:

1. Presentation made during the Budget Committee Public Hearing on January 18, 2022 by Interim Superintendent David DeRuosi and Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore: Raymond Community Television link: tinyurl.com/edcdux3c, powerpoint presentation link: tinyurl.com/2p8dt94w.
2. [RSA 40:13X and XVI](#).

School Article 3 - REA Collective Bargaining Agreement

This article will approve a three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) reached between the Raymond School Board and the Raymond Education Association (REA), and it will approve raising and appropriating funds for increases in salaries and benefits for the upcoming fiscal year. There are currently 122 teachers and other professional members of REA who would be affected by this new contract.

If passed, a new pay scale will be implemented by the School District. Salaries will be adjusted accordingly:

Year 1: One step increase and any teacher one step behind will move up that lost step 65% of the way through the year. Pay Schedule amounts increased by 5% (average salary increase is 7.7%).

Year 2: Pay Schedule amounts increased by 1.5% (average salary increase is 4.4%).

Year 3: Pay Schedule amounts increased by 3.0% (average salary increase is 4.6%).

Change Insurance plan from SchoolCare to HealthTrust will result in a significant decrease in overall cost to the school district and employee. Contribution rates remain the same (9% employee, 91% employer) for the first year. The savings in this change in insurance plans is reflected in the first year but the contribution rate percentages will remain the same for the entire 3 years. (3)

In addition to salary and benefit changes, there are non-monetary changes in this contract. (1) One or more REA members will be added to District- and Building-level Administration Interview Committees. Reimbursement for an individual workshop is increased but the total amount available to staff is unchanged.

In 2022-2023, Total Salary-Related Increases \$696,928; Health Insurance Savings (\$287,269); Net Estimated Costs \$409,659.

In 2023-2024, Total Salary-Related Increases \$437,208; No Change in Health Insurance \$0.00; Net Estimated Costs \$437,208.

In 2024-2025, Total Salary-Related Increases \$458,938; No Change in Health Insurance \$0.00; Net Estimated Costs \$458,938. (2) Note: After the warrant was written and signed, a clerical error revealed a \$134 decrease and clarified the total amount to be 458,804. This write-up shows the corrected amount, whereas the warrant article reflects the incorrect amount. (3)

The 2022 estimated tax increase is \$0.31 per thousand of valuation, or \$62 on a \$200,000 home. The estimated tax increase for the following two years cannot yet be calculated due to unknown property tax rates and unknown revenues. (2) (3)

A YES vote approves a 3-year contract for members of the REA and funds the first year of the agreement.

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

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Agree with the changes in cost items and language.
- To increase pay for professional members of REA, per the new pay scale.
- To continue to decrease the District’s contribution to health care costs.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Objection to any or all terms of the CBA.
- To have a special meeting to address a revised agreement.
- To maintain the current REA insurance program.

References:

1. REA Negotiating Team Presentation to District 12/14/21.
2. Presentation made during the Budget Committee Public Hearing on January 18, 2022 by Interim Superintendent David DeRuosi and Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore: Raymond Community Television link: tinyurl.com/edcdx3c, powerpoint presentation link: tinyurl.com/2p8dt94w.
3. Discussion at School Deliberative Session, 2/12/22: tinyurl.com/mmkw879n.

School Article 4 – REA Special Meeting

If the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for Raymond Education Association (REA) described in Article 3 does not pass, this Article will allow the School Board to call one special meeting to address cost items in the CBA between the School Board and REA. (1) The tax impact for this article is undetermined at this time.

A YES vote allows the School Board to call a special meeting to address cost items in Article 3.

A NO vote does not authorize a special meeting.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To give the School Board the opportunity to renegotiate the contract and then present it to the voters at a special meeting.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To avoid potential costs for a special meeting. (2)(3)

References:

1. [RSA 32:20](#), Municipal Budget Law, Special Meetings.
2. “It is no longer possible to petition the superior court for permission to hold a special meeting for a defeated CBA. The law was amended last year to prevent that from occurring. It is the duty of both parties to reopen negotiations and continue bargaining until a new agreement is reached. The law also allows a warrant article to approve a special meeting in this one instance of CBA negotiations.” - Marjorie Whitmore in an email to RVIP, 2/11/22.
3. Estimated cost for a special meeting would be \$5,000. - Discussion at School Deliberative Session, 2/12/22: tinyurl.com/mmkw879n.

School Article 5 – RESS Collective Bargaining Agreement

This article will approve the costs to fund the first year of the four-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Raymond School Board and the Raymond Educational Support Staff (RESS). (1) This will fund the 2022-2023 school year and approve funding for the additional costs of salaries and benefits according to the agreement covering the 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 school years.

Currently the District pays 94% of the cost for most RESS employees’ healthcare plan; the District pays lesser percentages for other employees, depending upon their date of hire. If this article passes, the District contribution will decrease to 88% over the four year period for all RESS employees. These amounts save the District as follows: current employees \$345,080 in the first year; \$33,685 in the second year; \$36,936 in the third year; and \$49,935 in the fourth year. (2)

The agreement includes a salary increase of \$1.75 per hour in the first year, an increase of \$1.25 for the second year, and \$1.00 and \$1.30 for the third and fourth years. The agreement also increases the annual stipend for various certifications by \$50 each, and increases longevity pay. (2)

The agreement includes a (\$51,658 decrease) for the 2022-2023 school year; an increase of \$171,930 for the 2023-2024 school year; an increase of \$127,535 for the 2024-2025 school year, and an increase of \$162,371 for the 2025-2026 school year.

The estimated 2022 tax impact is a decrease of (\$0.04) per \$1000 valuation, which is a reduction of (\$8.00) for a \$200,000 home. The tax impacts for future years of the contract are not known due to unknown revenues and property tax rates. (3)

A YES vote approves a four-year agreement between the Raymond School Board and the Raymond Educational Support Staff, funds the first year, and commits the School Board to fund the following years up through 2025-26.

A NO vote means that the Support Staff will continue to work under the current agreement.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Agreement with the costs of the collective bargaining agreement.
- To eliminate the need for special meetings to address a revised agreement.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Objection to any or all terms of the agreement.

References:

1. RESS includes Cafeteria Workers, Nurse’s Aides, Paraeducators, Custodians, Licensed Practical Nurses, Secretaries, Receptionists, Accounts Payable, Payroll, and Financial Assistants for a total of 102 members. However, if this article passes, it will remove accounts payable, payroll and financial assistance. -Marjorie Whitmore, SAU Business Administrator, in an email to RVIP. 2/15/22.
2. Presentation made during the Budget Committee Public Hearing on January 18, 2022 by Interim Superintendent David DeRuosi and Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore: Raymond Community Television link: tinyurl.com/edcdx3c, powerpoint presentation link: tinyurl.com/2p8dt94w.
3. Discussion at School Deliberative Session, 2/12/22: tinyurl.com/mmkw879n.

School Article 6 – Special Meeting RESS

If the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for Raymond Educational Support Staff (RESS) described in Article 5 does not pass, this Article will allow the School Board to call one special meeting to address cost items in the CBA between the School Board and RESS. (1) The tax impact for this article is undetermined at this time.

A YES vote allows the School Board to call a special meeting to address cost items in Article 5.

A NO vote will not authorize a special meeting.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To give the School Board the opportunity to renegotiate the contract and then present it to the voters at a special meeting.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To avoid potential costs for a special meeting. (2)(3)

References:

1. [RSA 32:20](#), Municipal Budget Law, Special Meetings.
2. “It is no longer possible to petition the superior court for permission to hold a special meeting for a defeated CBA. The law was amended last year to prevent that from occurring. It is the duty of both parties to reopen negotiations and continue bargaining until a new agreement is reached. The law also allows a warrant article to approve a special meeting in this one instance of CBA negotiations.” - Marjorie Whitmore in an email to RVIP, 2/11/22.
3. Estimated cost for a special meeting would be \$5,000. - Discussion at School Deliberative Session, 2/12/22: tinyurl.com/mmkw879n.

School Article 7 – Capital Reserve Funds

This article will raise \$412,500 and deposit the funds into three School Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs) to support the School District’s 20-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This plan projects the School District’s needs out to 2042-2043. (1) The amount requested this year is an increase of \$37,500 as

compared to last year’s request. Estimated Tax increase is \$0.03 per thousand of valuation, or \$6.00 on a \$200,000 home.

School District Equipment, Facilities Maintenance and Replacement CRF (established in 2006): \$160,305 (decreased from \$183,998 in 2021) for bathroom floor upgrades and chain link fence replacement at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School (IHGMS), fourteen window replacements and eight outside door replacements at Lamprey River Elementary School (LRES), and to put aside some funds for future year projects. (2) The balance in this CRF is \$1,150,760. (3)

Technology CRF (established in 2001): \$150,000 (decreased from \$151,992 in 2021 to save for future projects. (2) The balance in this CRF is \$280,772. (3)

Food Service Equipment CRF (established in 2006): \$102,195 (increased from \$39,010 in 2021) to replace the food steamer at IHGMS and the convection oven at LRES and to put aside funds for future year projects. (2) The balance in this CRF is \$105,009. (3)

A **YES vote** raises \$412,500 to fund three School District CRFs.

A **NO vote** would not fund the identified CRFs in the School District CIP this year.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To address the stated replacements and upgrades at the schools. (4)
- Consider these changes necessary.
- To avoid spikes in the tax rate and interest on borrowed/bonded funds by saving gradually. (4)

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Disagree with the stated purposes for these funds.
- Prefer using the CRF monies for other purposes. (4)
- Prefer to finance high cost items through other methods such as bonding or borrowing.

References:

1. Raymond School District Capital Improvement Plan Needs Assessment and Bond Needs Assessment: tinyurl.com/2p9amsjn.
2. SAU presentation to Budget Committee 1/18/22 by Interim Superintendent David DeRuosi and Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore: Raymond Community Television link: tinyurl.com/edcdx3c, powerpoint presentation link: tinyurl.c0m/2p8dt94w.
3. Email from Marjorie Whitmore, SAU 33 Business Administrator, to RVIP, 2/11/22.
4. Discussion at School Deliberative Session, 2/12/22: tinyurl.com/mmkw879n.

School Article 8 – CRF Contribution from Year End Balance

This article will allow the School Board to place up to \$400,000 from the year-end fund balance into the Equipment, Facilities Maintenance, and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) established in 2006. (1) The balance in this fund has increased over the years by saving part of the year-end fund balance for projects listed in the District’s Capital Improvement Plan. (2)(3) The current balance in this CRF is \$1,150,760, and the figures will be confirmed after the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2022. (4) The requested funds would be used to build up the CRF for such projects as school building safety improvements and repairs including a new roof at the Iber Holmes Gove Middle School, and an HVAC system at Raymond High School. (4) There is no new tax impact for 2022.

A **YES vote** will authorize the School District to transfer up to \$400,000 from the year-end fund balance into the CRF.

A **NO vote** will require that all the year-end surplus, other than any amount retained for a contingency fund as allowed by State law, must be returned to the taxpayers. (4)

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To save part of the year-end funds for future long-term projects defined by the Capital Improvement Plan. (3)
- To reduce the total amount that may need to be bonded for future projects.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To return the year-end surplus to the taxpayers, other than any amount allowed by State law as a contingency fund. (4)
- Prefer to delay funding this CRF.

References:

1. This CRF was established as a means to save for items costing over \$10,000 that have a useful life of 5+ years.
2. “This warrant article allows the School Board the option to allocate up to \$400,000 to this Capital Reserve Fund if those funds are available at the end of the fiscal year. Due to the ongoing efforts of the School Board to put surplus funds aside if possible, we are making great strides in achieving our goals of putting money aside for future projects.” From the SAU presentation to Budget Committee 1/18/22 by Interim Superintendent David DeRuosi and Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore: Raymond Community Television link tinyurl.com/edcdx3c, powerpoint presentation link: tinyurl.com/2p8dt94w.
3. Capital Improvement Plan notes that IHGMS roof is warranted until 2026, RHS needs HVAC planned for 2025-26; additional info in Raymond School District Capital Improvement Plan Needs Assessment and Bond Needs Assessment: tinyurl.com/2p9amsj.
4. Discussion at School Deliberative Session, 2/12/22: tinyurl.com/mmkw879n.

TOWN WARRANT

Town Article 1: 2022 Town Candidates

The following Candidates names are in the order that will appear on the ballot that is determined by a random selection process in accordance with [RSA 656:5-a](#):

One (1) Selectman for a One Year (1-year) Term:

Tim Cahill
Kathleen M. Hoelzel

Two (2) Selectmen for a Three Year (3-Year) Term:

Tona McCarthy
Alissa L. Welch
Lee Weldy
Anthony Clements
Chris “Turtle” Long
Carlos A. Maldonado

One (1) Budget Committee Member for a One Year (1-Year) Term:

Lisa Bonnett

Two (2) Budget Committee Members for a Three Year (3-Year) Term:

Cody Cramer
Tracey Stickney

Two (2) Ethics Committee Members for a Three Year (3-Year) Term:

Tami Bemis Cole
Virginia A. Fernald

One (1) Planning Board Member for a One Year (1-Year) Term:

James M. McLeod
Kevin S. Woods

Two (2) Planning Board Members for a Three Year (3-Year) Term:

Gretchen Gott
Dee Luszc

One (1) Trustee of Trust Funds for a Three Year (3-Year) Term:

Mark D. Desrochers

One (1) Library Trustee for a Three Year (3-Year) Term:

Jill Galus

One (1) Town Moderator for a Two Year (2-Year) Term:

Wayne Welch

One (1) Supervisor of The Checklist for a Six Year (6-Year) Term:

Kathleen (Kathy) McDonald

Town Article 2 – Citizen Petition - Discontinuation of Town Manager Position

This Citizen Petition states, “Shall the Town of Raymond discontinue the Town Manager position (RSA 37:13) on the second Tuesday of April this year and replace the position with a Town Administrator? The Town Administrator’s salary shall be determined by the Board of Selectmen, after a public hearing. (The wording used in this article is allowed by RSA 31:130.)”

The Town Manager position was established by Warrant Article #2 in 1989. This article discontinues the Town Manager position and replaces it with a Town Administrator position. (1)(2)(3) RSA 37:13 regulates the date to discontinue the Town Manager position.

Citizens may vote to discontinue the Town Manager form of government in the same manner that was used to adopt it. A Town Manager is administrative head of all Town departments (with the exception of the Library, which is governed by the Library Director and the Board of Library Trustees), with authority to hire/fire employees and set salaries, and to approve the payment of certain bills. (3) A Town Administrator works under the direct supervision of the Board of Selectmen (BOS), which holds all statutory authority. (4) There is no new tax impact.

A YES vote replaces the Town Manager position with a Town Administrator position.

A NO vote keeps the Town Manager position the way it is now.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To have a Town Administrator who works under the direct supervision of the BOS, which determines education, training, and experience requirements, and retains statutory authority. (3)
- To have one public hearing (public input) at the BOS meeting to establish the Town Administrator’s salary.
- To have an “at will” employee who could resign or be terminated for any reason, while following discrimination laws, and Town personnel policies still apply. (3)(6)
- To keep some of the authority that would otherwise be held by the BOS in the hands of a non-elected official.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Law states that the BOS must hire a Town Manager based on education, training, and experience only. (3)
- To keep the Town Manager position, who holds statutory responsibilities. (5)
- Any other employee of the Town of Raymond is an “at-will” employee, but the Town Manager must be terminated for “cause.” (6)(7)

References:

1. [RSA 37:13](#), Town or village district managers - Revocation.
2. [RSA 31:130](#), Powers and Duties of Towns: Validity of Municipal Legislation.
3. [RSA 37](#): Town or Village District Managers. (full list)
4. Town of Raymond 2022 Warrant Article Overview: tinyurl.com/mp8xsdtv.
5. “A town manager has the power and duties that are outlined in [RSA Chapter 37](#), while a town administrator...has no similar statutory authority, but instead works under the direct supervision of the board of selectmen, which retains all of its statutory authority.” -NH Municipal Association article: Town Managers vs. Town Administrators: What’s the Difference?: tinyurl.com/2v7ynf6v.
6. “In the case of termination, a town manager may be removed by the selectman at any time for “cause.” This is in contrast to a town administrator, who is an employee “at will” and who may be removed without notice or cause.” -NH Municipal Association article: Town Managers vs. Town Administrators: What’s the Difference?: tinyurl.com/2v7ynf6v.
7. Raymond Town Employee Personnel Policy: tinyurl.com/3khejurw.

Town Article 3 – Zoning Amendment

This article will amend sections 4.5.2, 15.2.6, and 15.2.7 of the Raymond Zoning Ordinance. (1) It was proposed by the Planning Board after an applicant questioned whether a structure setback is measured from the Zone line or from the property line. The intent of the article is to clarify that setbacks required for uses that abut properties in different zoning districts are measured from the property line, not the zone boundary line. It relates to the Development Standards for Zone C3 Mixed Use Commercial, any residential structure proposed for location within a Commercial C.1 and C.2 or Industrial zone D (except certain security buildings), and any commercial or industrial structure which is proposed to be located abutting a residential zone, or in C.2 only, an existing residential use. This article will make setbacks uniform in the Ordinance. There is no new tax impact.

A YES vote will define the origin of all setback dimensions.

A NO vote will not specify that the setback originates from the property line.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To clarify that the setbacks originate from the property line and not the Zone line.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To maintain the Town’s current code.

References:

1. Raymond Zoning Ordinance, last updated in 2021: tinyurl.com/5x7n9s3w.

Town Article 4 – Zoning Amendment

This article will amend section 15.1 of the Raymond Zoning Ordinance by placing all Area and Dimensional requirements into one table instead of keeping them in multiple tables. (1) These Area and Dimensional tables include minimum requirements for lot size, frontage, and setbacks. Also, this article will make the area and dimensional requirements for Zone A (Residential) not serviced by Town water the same as Zone B (Residential/Agricultural). There is no tax impact.

A YES vote would combine the three existing tables into one table and would make the dimensional requirements for Zone A not serviced by town water the same as Zone B.

A NO vote keeps the tables separate and allows smaller lots in Zone A not serviced by Town water to exist with a well.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To provide one location for all Area and Dimensional requirements.
- To require larger lots in Zone A, not serviced by town water.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- A lesser setback would allow additional development of these lots.
- To maintain the current zoning requirements.

References:

1. Raymond Zoning Ordinance, last updated in 2021: tinyurl.com/5x7n9s3w.

Town Article 5 - Zoning Amendment Article 5, Table 5.1.1

This is a citizen petition warrant article which states: “Shall the Town of Raymond vote to amend Article 5, Table 5.1.1 to include the Bean Tavern, 10 Old Fremont Road, Map #23, Lot #60 into Zone F, the Historic Overlay District.”

This article would add the Bean Tavern, located at 10 Old Fremont Road, purchased by the Town in 2021, to the Raymond Historic Overlay District. The public purpose for the Overlay Historic District is to safeguard the preservation of these properties which reflect elements of their cultural, social, economic, political community, and architectural history. (1)

In 2021, voters approved the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of the Bean Tavern through Warrant Article 34. According to the book, *Pictorial History of Raymond, N.H. 1764-1976*, by the Raymond Historical Society: “The Bean House is the oldest house in Raymond and in early years it was a tavern. The first town meetings were held there and it was also used as a

house of worship, before the churches were built. This house was probably built around 1750. The Tavern was opened by Lieut. Benjamin Bean, probably before 1760. His son Thomas continued with the business until his death in 1804. The tavern was given up shortly thereafter. Town Meetings were held at the Bean Tavern even after the new meeting house was built....” (1)

A **YES vote** would add the Bean Tavern to the Historic Overlay District and make the Tavern subject to the Historic District rules and regulations. (2)

A **NO vote** would not add the Tavern to the Historic Overlay District.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Adding the Tavern to the Historic District would be consistent with the Town motto: “Preserving our past, Preparing our future.” (3)
- The Bean Tavern is the symbol of the Town of Raymond, the emblem on the Town flag, and is believed to be the oldest home in Raymond. (3)

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To avoid putting a limit on how Bean Tavern is modified or rehabilitated. (2)
- To allow time for the Town and the Historic District Commission to approve specific plans for the Bean Tavern before including it in the Historic Overlay District.

References:

1. Book: Pictorial History of Raymond, NH 1764-1976 by the Raymond Historical Society, 1 copy is available at the Dudley-Tucker Library in Raymond, NH.
2. Town of Raymond Historic District Regulations & Procedural Rules, Revised October 22, 2015: tinyurl.com/y26e2e8p.
3. Historic District Commission draft minutes of 12/30/21: tinyurl.com/2p85fuzc.

Town Article 6 – Operating Budget/Default Budget

This article will raise and appropriate \$8,606,539 to fund the Operating Budget, or if the article fails, will raise \$8,619,798 to fund the Default Budget. (1) These amounts 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 (2), which is self-funded by water users, has no tax impact, and is not included in the information that follows. If the Operating Budget fails, and the Default Budget is in place, the Town may revisit the Operating Budget and call one special meeting so that voters can vote on the revision.

The proposed Town Operating Budget, without the Water Budget, is \$7,759,991, which is an increase of \$122,359 or 1.6% (3) as compared to last year’s actual operating budget. The proposed Water Department Operating Budget is \$846,548 which is a decrease of (\$3,498) or -0.41% as compared to last year’s budget. (3)

Budget increases include employee compensation, NH Retirement System, projected increase in health insurance costs, and splitting the Town Clerk and Tax Collector positions. (3)

Budget decreases include cuts in Town employee overtime, legal expenses, cemeteries, vacation buy-down, and using contracted services to reduce employee costs in the Planning Department. There was also a correction in the Town’s favor from the Water Department. (3)

Fiscal Strategies netted an estimated -\$130,612 in cuts across Fixed lines & Overtime: -\$102,588, and -\$28,024 in Overtime (Department of Public Works, Fire Department, and Police Department.) (3)

Water budget increases include employee and insurance costs, and NH Retirement System contributions.

Water budget decreases include -1.6% (\$4,610) in Debt Payment with additional decreases in fixed costs (contracts, procuring supplies). (3)

The estimated tax impact of the proposed 2022 Operating Budget (without the self-funded Water Budget) is \$3.939 per thousand of valuation or \$787.80 on a \$200,000 home.

The estimated tax impact of the Default Operating Budget is \$3.949 per thousand of valuation or \$789.80 on a \$200,000 home.

A **YES vote** raises and appropriates \$8,606,539 to fund the Town’s Operating Budget and the Town’s Water Department Operating Budget.

A **NO vote** raises and appropriates \$8,619,798 to fund the Town’s Default Budget and the Town’s Water Department Default Budget.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To approve the proposed Town’s Budget for 2022.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To approve the Town’s Default Budget.
- To allow the Town the option of revising its Operating Budget and calling a special meeting for voter action.

References:

1. The Town’s default budget is defined by state law. RSA 40:13, IX (b): “Default budget” as used in this subdivision means the amount of the same appropriations as contained in the Operating Budget authorized for the previous year, reduced and increased, as the case may be, by debt service, contracts, and other obligations previously incurred or mandated by law, and reduced by one-time expenditures contained in the Operating Budget. According to RSA 40:13 X and XVI: The Default Budget is automatically in place if the proposed Operating Budget fails and if the Town opts not to revise its proposed budget and call a special meeting.
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.
3. Town of Raymond 2022 Draft BOS Appropriation Package: tinyurl.com/2p86j7us.

Town Article 7 – Capital Improvements

This article will add \$366,010 to the existing Capital Reserve Funds. The money will be used for the items listed in the warrant article as follows: General Government Buildings Maintenance & Improvements \$118,450; Highway Department Vehicle Repair & Replacement \$41,200; Highway Department Heavy Equipment \$46,350; Bridge and Culvert \$35,535; Police Department & Dispatch Equipment, Vehicle, & Facilities \$10,660; Fire Department Equipment and Vehicle \$103,000; Parks Equipment & Facilities \$10,815. The tax impact will be \$55.40 on a \$200,000 house, or \$0.277 per thousand of valuation estimated tax impact.

A **YES vote** would fund the listed Capital Reserve Funds with money raised in taxes.

A **NO vote** provides no funding for 2022 for the listed Capital Reserve Funds.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To use Capital Reserve funds for these needs. (1)
- To allocate tax dollars to specific uses as listed in the warrant article.
- Agree with the need to add funds to the existing funds. (2)
- Agree on the amounts listed for each fund.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Disagree that funds should be spent on the uses listed in the warrant article.
- Do not agree on the amounts listed for each fund.
- Consider the current balances in these funds are sufficient. (2)
- Consider the funds are already accounted for in Warrant Article 25 Town Vehicle and Equipment Revitalization Capital Reserve Fund. (3)

References:

1. RSA 35 Capital Reserve Funds: tinyurl.com/yc2kzepu.
2. Trustees of the Trust Funds November 2021 Report, Pages 12-13: tinyurl.com/4a6spymt.
3. Town Web site Voter information list of warrant articles: tinyurl.com/bdmdrk4u.

Town Article 8 – Capital Reserve Funds (Water Revenues)

This article raises \$200,000 to be deposited into the Water Department’s Capital Reserve Funds (CRF), intended to allow the Department to save for expensive items, without creating additional taxation. This year, the funds would be divided as follows: Construct, Repair & Maintain Town Water Treatment Facility \$50,000; Water System Infrastructure \$45,000; Water Storage Facilities \$100,000; Water Department Utility Replace Vehicle \$3,000; New Well Site Acquisitions \$2,000. The total amount requested in this Warrant Article has been the same for the last two years. There is no tax impact; it is to be paid with revenues from users of the public water system.

A **YES vote** will add funds to the above accounts as listed.

A **NO vote** will add no funds to any of the items listed.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To save money for capital improvements as scheduled by the Water Department.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer to finance high cost items through other means, such as voter-approved bonds.

Town Article 9 – Mosquito Control

This article would raise the amount of \$40,000 for the purpose of controlling the population of adult mosquitoes in the Town of Raymond. The cost of this town contract with Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc. has stayed the same since 2016. The program monitors and controls mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and other mosquito-borne illnesses primarily by applying bacterial insecticide in stagnant water, storm drains, catch basins, salt marshes, and other areas to which the general public does not have access (1) as well as on-request emergency spraying of public assembly areas including playgrounds and the Common. (2) Dragon and the State of NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provide updates to the Selectmen about testing results. The estimated 2022 tax impact is \$0.03 per thousand of valuation, or \$6.00 on a \$200,000 home.

A **YES vote** approves funding the mosquito control program.

A **NO vote** does not approve funding the mosquito control program.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To reduce the likelihood of mosquito-borne illnesses such as WNV and EEE being transmitted to people through mosquito bites. (1)
- A batch of mosquitoes in Raymond tested positive for WNV in 2018. (3)

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Do not want a mosquito control program in Raymond.
- Prefer alternative means of mosquito control. (4)

References:

1. NH DHHS Division of Public Health Services Bureau of Infectious Disease Control, Mosquito Control: tinyurl.com/5n7rukf8.
2. Services that Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc. provides to the Town of Raymond: tinyurl.com/4azfbtsx.
3. NH DHHS Division of Public Health Services Bureau of Infectious Disease Control, Mosquito Testing 2018 Summary Map: tinyurl.com/2pxj3urw.
4. NH DHHS Division of Public Health Services, Preventing diseases spread by mosquitoes: tinyurl.com/5f7p96kx.

Town Article 10 – Town of Raymond Scholarship Fund

This article seeks to raise \$2,000 to be put into the Town of Raymond Scholarship Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) for Raymond High School graduating seniors, and any Raymond resident attending their first year of college. This fund was established pursuant to Warrant Article 23 at the 2000 Town Meeting. Scholarship funds are released from the CRF after recipients have completed their first semester at college and have submitted documentation to that effect. (1) Recipients are chosen by the Board of Selectmen who also determine the amount of each scholarship. (2) The amount of funds requested has stayed the same the last three years. The estimated 2022 tax impact is \$0.002 per thousand of valuation, or \$0.40 on a \$200,000 home.

A **YES vote** raises \$2,000 to be put into the Raymond Scholarship Fund.

A **NO vote** does not raise \$2,000 to be put into the Raymond Scholarship Fund.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To add to the Scholarship Fund.
- To continue this 20-year effort to benefit local citizens.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To spend down the balance of the Scholarship Fund.
- Do not want the Town of Raymond to fund this purpose.

References:

1. Town Deliberative Session, 2017.
2. Town of Raymond Financial Julie Jenks, email confirmation to RVIP, 1/20/22: In 2021, Raymond awarded \$4,000 total to four recipients at \$1,000 each. The Town Scholarship CRF 2021 year end balance was \$7,454.47.

Town Article 11 – 4th of July 2022 Community Event

This article will raise \$5,000 to put toward costs of the 4th of July 2022 community event. Costs could include holiday and overtime pay for police, fire, public works and other town employees; food and water; entertainment (bands, clown cars, post-parade entertainment) - all of which have been free to the public, at this event, traditionally. This article has been on the Town ballot since 2018. From 2018 to 2021, \$3,000 was requested. Each year, requested funds were fully expended except for in 2020 when the \$3,000 was moved to an unallocated fund due to the cancellation of the 2020 community event. (1) This year’s amount requested is an increase of \$2,000 compared to the \$3,000 requested from 2018 through 2021, (2) and these funds are expected to be fully spent to cover additional employee wages. (1)

This event has been taking place for over 20 years. Businesses, a local church, volunteer groups, and private individuals have also contributed to expenses over the years; however, volunteers have decreased since 2020. The estimated 2022 tax impact is \$0.004 per \$1,000 of valuation, or \$0.80 on a \$200,000 home.

A **YES vote** will raise \$5,000 to put towards the costs of the 2022 4th of July celebration.

A **NO vote** will not raise \$5,000 to put towards the costs of the 2022 4th of July celebration.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To defray event costs through taxation.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer to fund event costs by other means than taxation.

References:

1. Previous years’ expenditures for this event exceeded the Town’s budget, hence former Town Manager Ilsley’s increased appropriation request. The entire increased amount is likely to be expended in 2022. Town of Raymond Finance Director, Julie Jenks, via email to RVIP, 1/23/22.
2. Raymond Voter Information Project, Voter Guides, 2018-2021: tinyurl.com/2p9b9zww.

Town Article 12 – Social Services Agencies

This article funds \$39,372 for ten social service agencies that provide services to Raymond residents. Requests from social service agencies in the past exceeded \$90,000, and in 2021, the Board of Selectmen capped the amount to allow for social service agencies to \$40,000. The amount the social services requested this year totaled \$34,372 and another was added at the Town Deliberative Session. (1)(2) This year, the amount to be awarded to social service agencies is \$628 below the allowed amount set by the Board of Selectmen. The estimated tax impact is \$0.03 per \$1,000 of valuation, or \$6.00 on a \$200,000 home.

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

A **NO vote** will not provide any funding to any Social Service agency.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To help support agencies serving Raymond.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Personal objections to any or all of the agencies.

References:

1. Ray-Fre Senior Center: \$5,000 (added at Deliberative Session, 2/5/22); HAVEN: \$4,175; Court Appointed Service Advocates: \$1,500; Child Advocacy Center of Rockingham County: \$2,000; Retired Senior Volunteer Program: \$600; Raymond Coalition for Youth: \$10,000; Chamber Children’s Fund: \$3,000; Rockingham County Nutrition Program: \$6,247; American Red Cross: \$1,850; Richie McFarland Children’s Center: \$5,000. The total amount is \$39,372.

2. Discussion at Board of Selectmen’s meeting, 11/15/21: tinyurl.com/y7tf6546.

2. Raymond NH Town Department of Public Works: List of Infrastructure Priority Listing (Highway): tinyurl.com/53s2c5dr.

Town Article 13 – Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund (Fund 18)

This article asks voters to spend up to \$849,000 from the Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund - Fund 18 (1)(2) to pay for residential curbside trash and recycling removal (Pay As You Throw/PAYT). The funds in this Special Revenue Fund (SRF) accumulate through sales of yellow trash bags and recycling bins, and through transfer station fees. (3) This fund was created by voters in 2006 with Warrant Article 33 and requires annual voter approval to gain access to these funds. Approval by a majority of the voters is required for passage. There is no new tax impact.

A YES vote gives the Town permission to use the funds already in the Waste Disposal SRF (Fund 18) to pay for curbside trash & recycling removal.

A NO vote means the Town would have no legal way to access the funds in the account; the funds could not be used and would remain in the SRF. Residential curbside trash & recycling removal could be significantly impacted.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To continue residential curbside trash & recycling removal, at least until the extended contract expires. (4)
- To allow officials to access the funds already set aside for the purpose of paying for residential curbside trash & recycling removal.
- To avoid having to take monies from other Town departments or programs.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To stop the residential curbside trash & recycling removal program (PAYT).
- To prevent officials from using the money in the Special Revenue Fund.
- To fund waste disposal in some other manner.

References:

1. [RSA 31:95-c](#): Special Revenue Funds. Towns may vote to restrict revenues, or any portion of revenues, from a specific source to expenditures for specific purposes...and be separate from the general fund.
2. The funds in this SRF are usually completely expended each year for the costs of the program.
3. As of the end of October, the balance in that account was \$19,997, Board of Selectmen’s meeting 11/15/21: tinyurl.com/pf7v4rad.
4. The current contract with Waste Management ends 5/31/22, having been extended past March 1, 2022, in order to determine future options for waste disposal. Board of Selectmen’s meeting, 1/10/22: tinyurl.com/49jyh6z2.

Town Article 14 – Shim and Overlay Special Revenue Fund

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 asphalt overlay. This article authorizes funding and withdrawal of \$240,208 from the Department of Public Works Shim and Overlay SRF. (1) There is no net impact to the Town’s Operating Budget because NH State Highway Block Grant revenue funds this SRF. There is no new tax impact.

A YES vote authorizes the Department of Public Works to withdraw \$240,208 from its Shim and Overlay Special Revenue Fund and requires the use of the money prior to December 31, 2024.

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) on which the money will be spent. (2)

References:

1. 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.

Town Article 15 – Road Reconstruction Projects

This article raises and appropriates \$371,315 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)

The Town’s focus has been to address the heavily traveled roads first and then attend to the lesser used adjacent side streets. (2) The State will contribute \$240,208 this year towards the Town’s road maintenance as stated in Warrant Article 14. (3) Estimated tax impact: \$0.281 per thousand of tax valuation, or \$56.20 for a \$200,000 home.

A YES vote allows the Town to continue some of the most needed road reconstruction projects.

A NO vote will not raise these funds to be used for road reconstruction.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To enable the Public Works Department to reconstruct some roads rather than continue to make more temporary repairs to those roads.
- To try to decrease the percentage of road miles in need of reconstruction.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Disagree with using funds for road projects.
- Wish to fund road repairs with State money only.

References:

1. [RSA 32:7-VI](#): gives towns the authority to create non-lapsing funds.
2. Department of Public Works Director Steve Brewer, Board of Selectmen (BOS) Meeting 11/21/16.
3. Annual State-provided Highway Block Grant funds as stipulated by [RSA 235:23](#).

Town Article 16 – Establish Contingency Fund

This article will establish a contingency fund in the amount of \$76,376 as allowed by State law (1) from the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) (2) to be used for unexpected expenses (e.g.: natural disaster, state aid/federal grants subject to cuts, legal). Any appropriated money remaining after paying for an unexpected event will be returned to the general fund at the end of the year. If contingency funds are not needed at all, the money stays in the UFB.

The concept of creating a Contingency Fund was first approved by voters via Warrant Article 11 in 2019, but said funds have not needed to be used to-date. The Board of Selectmen (BOS) would determine the need to use the contingency monies and would be required to prepare a detailed report of expenditures in the annual report. (3) A majority vote is required for passage. There is no new tax impact.

A YES vote will create a contingency fund and set aside \$76,376 for unanticipated, catastrophic events.

A NO vote would not create a contingency fund and would require alternative fund source/s for handling unexpected expenses.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To arrange contingency funds for an unexpected event without additional tax impact.
- To use part of the Unassigned Fund Balance for unexpected expenses.
- To allow efficient access to funds.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Uncertainty about how the contingency fund might be used.
- Prefer that contingency monies come from another source such as the Operating Budget or disaster relief.
- Prefer that funds are requested from and approved by the NH Department of Revenue Administration before expenditure. (4)

References:

1. [RSA 31:98-a](#): Contingency Fund. “Such fund shall not exceed one percent of the amount appropriated by the town for town purposes during the preceding year excluding capital expenditures and the amortization of debt.”
2. The UFB is monies that were unanticipated revenue received throughout

2021 and/or monies that were not spent from the general fund.

3. “Effective as of August 24, 2013, towns may establish a contingency fund by approving an article in the warrant at the annual meeting. The fund may be used by the governing body (selectmen/town council) during the fiscal year to meet the cost of unanticipated expenses that may arise during that year and are not otherwise provided for in the budget... A detailed report of all expenditures from the contingency fund must be made each year by the governing body and published in the annual report”: tinyurl.com/2p833y48.
4. RSA 32:11: Emergency Expenditures and Overexpenditures details the steps required before accessing funds for unexpected events.

Town Article 17 – Sick and Vacation Non-Union Expendable Trust Fund

This article asks voters to authorize taking \$40,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) (1) and depositing it into the Vacation and Sick Leave Non-Union Expendable Trust Fund. This fund was established at the 2004 Town Meeting (Warrant Article 25) to ensure that the Town would have the money to pay for accrued sick and vacation leave when non-union employees retire. (2) Because the buy-outs for Non-Union members are a greater liability than that of Union members, funding is requested only for the Non-Union Expendable Trust Fund this year. (3)(4)(5) Typically, the Town uses monies budgeted in the Operating Budget for payouts, and then uses the Trust Fund if additional funds are needed. (5) There is no new tax impact.

A YES vote moves \$40,000 from the Town’s UFB to the Vacation and Sick Leave Non-Union Expendable Fund.

A NO vote does not add any money to the Vacation and Sick Leave Non-Union Expendable Fund.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To set aside additional funds, as compared to previous years, to help meet the obligation to the Town’s non-union employees. (6)
- To avoid incurring unfunded liabilities.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer to fund by some other means such as through the Operating Budget.

References:

1. “Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund. This classification represents fund balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund.” per Statement No. 54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, 2009. An “expendable” fund is a municipal trust fund created for maintenance and operation purposes. Per RSA 31:19-a, the purpose of such funds is for “maintenance and operation of the town.”
2. “As a general rule...since 2019, [the Town] has used the amount budgeted in the Town Operational Budget first and then used these [Expendable Trust] funds as a secondary funding source if the amount needed exceeds those funds in the Operational Budget. However, due to the drastic reduction in Buy-Out liabilities (estimated to be reduced... by 70% of when the Buy-Out Mitigation Strategy started) and the fiscal uncertainties of Covid-19; the Town will first use these accounts and then use the Town Operational Budget if this cost exceeds the amounts available.” -Former Town Manager Joe Ilsley, in an email 1/25/21.
3. “Currently the Town’s highest liability is Non-Union with lowest funding (“estimated around \$57,000. The 2018 Employee Buy-Out Strategy has eliminated nearly 80% of the Town’s exposure” -Former Town Manager Joe Ilsley notes from draft warrant articles, updated 10/27/21 and read at the Board of Selectmen’s meeting on 11/15/21: tinyurl.com/pf7v4rad.
4. The Town’s proposed 2022 Operating Budget has \$25,000 assigned to the Vacation Buy-Down line. Financial Director Julie Jenks, email 1/18/22.
5. Vacation and Sick Leave 2021 Year End CRF Balance - Non-Union: \$25,748.17 and Union: \$91,833.27. - 2022 Warrant Article Overview Deliberative Session: tinyurl.com/3yp7jn77.
6. This year, non-union buyouts totalled \$32,162.94 and were paid through the expendable trust fund rather than from the Operating Budget. If this article is approved, the balance of this fund will be about \$97,000. In 2021, \$35,000 was deposited into this fund by an amendment at Deliberative Session. Discussion at Board of Selectmen meeting, 11/1/21: tinyurl.com/3mrxa5hm.

Town Article 18 – Elderly Exemption Increase and Re-evaluation Adjustment

This article will increase the property tax exemption for people over the age of 65 who have been NH residents for at least 3 years and who meet specific income and asset requirements. (1) In addition to those age and residency requirements, the taxpayer must have a net income of less than \$33,800 (if single) or a combined net income of less than \$45,825 (if married), and own net assets not in excess of \$74,865 excluding the value of their home. For qualifying residents aged 65-75 years, \$141,000 is exempted; for 75-80 years, \$155,000 is exempted; for 80+ years, \$183,000 is exempted. The intention of the article is to make annual adjustments for qualifying residents in relation to the cost of living. (2) (3) In the current tax year, 101 individuals were granted this elderly exemption according to the NH Department of Revenue Administration. Revenue impact is dependent on the number of exemptions granted, which cannot be calculated at present. There is no 2022 tax impact. (Majority vote required)

A YES vote will increase property tax relief for qualifying elders who are within income and asset limits. (2)

A NO vote will maintain the elderly exemptions established last year.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To help some elder residents keep up with increased costs of living by adjusting property tax exemptions.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer to keep the exemptions at the current levels.

References:

1. RSA 72:39-a: Conditions for Elderly Exemption.
2. Last year, this exemption was increased by 25% in anticipation of the change in property revaluations. However, the revaluation was 37.5%. As a result, the exemption is increased 12.5% to make up the difference between the two. -Discussion at the Board of Selectmen meeting, 10/25/2021: tinyurl.com/3z6e9sam.
3. Additional Elderly & Disabled Exception Recommendations: Continue Social Security Adjustment in Net Income which is projected at 6.1% for 2022; Continue Net Asset Adjustment 1.9% for 2022; Recommend bring Disabled Exemption Limits in line with Elderly and continue annual increases; Recommend Increasing all of the property limits annually based on the average increase/decrease in Town Valuation as per MS-1. - Former Town Manager Joe Ilsley in the Draft Warrant Articles document, 12/15/21.

Town Article 19 – Blind Exemption Re-evaluation Adjustment

This article will modify the current property tax exemption for people who are deemed legally blind as determined by State of NH criteria. (1) This annual exemption is based on an assessed residential estate value of up to \$70,320. This exemption was first presented in 2021 as Warrant Article #26 as recommended by the Town Assessor given the anticipated increase in property values of the 2021 Revaluation. To date, 3 citizens have qualified for this exemption, which currently is set at \$62,500. (2) Revenue impact is dependent on the number of exemptions granted, which cannot be calculated at present. There is no 2022 tax impact.

A YES vote will increase residential property tax exemptions for citizens who are legally blind.

A NO vote would maintain the current property tax exemption.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To modify the current exemption since the Town Revaluation was completed this year.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer to keep the current property tax rate exemption.

References:

1. RSA 72:37: Exemption for the Blind states that every inhabitant who is legally blind as determined by the Blind Services Program within the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and Department of Education shall be exempt each year on the assessed value, for property tax purposes, of their residential real estate to the value of \$15,000. A city or town may exempt any amount it may determine is appropriate to address significant increases in property values in accordance with the procedures in RSA 72:27-a.

2. In 2021, these amounts were increased 25% in anticipation of the Revaluation, but since the revaluation change was 37.51%, it was recommended increasing these the remaining 12.51% to prevent impact on residents. Further recommendations: Continue Social Security Adjustment in Net Income which is projected at 6.1% for 2022; Continue Net Asset Adjustment 1.9% for 2022; Increase all of the property limits annually based on the average increase/decrease in Town Valuation as per MS-1. -Former Town Manager Joe Ilsley’s comments in the Draft Warrant Articles of 12/15/21.

Town Article 20 – Disabled Exemption Re-evaluation Adjustment

This article will adjust the property tax exemption for people who have disabilities as defined by Social Security guidelines and who meet other requirements per NH statute, based on the 2021 assessed value to be \$141,000. (1) Residents who meet the disability requirements can qualify for these exemptions if they have been a NH resident for at least 5 consecutive years own the real estate or, if the property is owned by the spouse, and they have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. Additionally, asset requirements state that the resident must have a net income of no more than \$33,800 or, if married, a combined net income of no more than \$45,825, and own net assets of \$74,865 or less, excluding the value of the residence. These exemption limits have been set to match the Elderly exemptions. Currently, there are 32 people qualifying for this exemption. Revenue impact is dependent on the number of exemptions granted, which cannot be calculated at present. There is no 2022 tax impact.

A **YES vote** will increase property tax exemptions for qualifying property owners with disabilities.

A **NO vote** will maintain the current property tax exemptions.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To adjust the exemptions in response to the property revaluation in 2021. (2)

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To keep the exemption as is.

References:

1. [RSA 72:37-b](#): Exemption for the Disabled.
2. In 2021 these exemptions were adjusted by 25% in anticipation of the Revaluation. In that the Revaluation change was 37.5%, this Article intends to increase the difference of 12.51% to avoid a negative impact on those residents. Additional recommendations were to Continue Social Security Adjustment in Net Income which is projected at 6.1% for 2022; Continue Net Asset Adjustment 1.9% for 2022; Align Disabled Exemption Limits with Elderly and continue annual increases; Recommend Increasing all of the property limits annually based on the average increase/decrease in Town Valuation as per MS-1. -Notes from former Town Manager Joe Ilsley provided with Draft Warrant Articles, 10/27/21.

Town Article 21 – Disabled Veterans Credit Increase

This article will increase the current property tax credit for Veterans with disabilities who were Honorably Discharged and who are 100% Permanently and Totally Disabled as determined by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. This tax credit also applies to their surviving spouses. The increase of \$500 will raise the current tax credit to \$3,500. RSA 72:35 I-a allows towns to adopt an optional tax credit up to \$4,000 (1) and so the maximum exemption is projected to be reached in 2023. Currently, there are 51 recipients of this tax credit. (2) Revenue impact is dependent on the number of exemptions granted, which cannot be calculated at present. There is no 2022 tax impact.

A **YES vote** will increase the residential tax credit to \$3,500 for qualifying Veterans or their surviving spouses.

A **NO vote** will maintain the current tax credit of \$3,000.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To offer an increased property tax credit as allowed by the State of NH.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To keep the current property tax credit as allowed by the State of NH.

References:

1. [RSA 72:35 I-a](#): The optional tax credit for service-connected total disability, upon adoption by a city or town pursuant to [RSA 72:27-a](#), shall

be an amount from \$701 up to \$4,000. The optional tax credit for service-connected total disability shall replace the standard tax credit [of \$700] in its entirety and shall not be in addition thereto.

2. Notes from former Town Manager Joe Ilsley provided with Draft Warrant Articles, 10/27/21.

Town Article 22 – One-Time or Cyclic Procurement Capital Reserve Fund

This article will place \$120,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) (1) into the One-Time or Cyclic Procurement Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) (2) for designated purposes. (3) This Capital Reserve Fund was established in 2020 via Warrant Article 20 for the purpose of stabilizing the Town’s Operational Budget and offsetting the tax impact of one-time or cyclic operational budget purchase needs. The 2021 year end balance in this CRF is \$97,481. (3) That vote authorized the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to set aside \$154,400 for operational budget purchases that were either one-time or repeating purchases.

One-time or cyclic operational budget purchase needs may include amounts for Town Insurance Reserves: \$45,000, Town 33% Computer Replacement Cycle: \$30,000, and Legal Expenses and Settlements \$45,000. (4) There is no new tax impact.

A **YES vote** authorizes the BOS to transfer \$120,000 into the One-Time or Cyclic Procurement CRF to pay for one-time or cyclic operational budget costs.

A **NO vote** does not authorize the BOS to transfer \$120,000 into the One-Time or Cyclic Procurement CRF to pay for one-time or cyclic operational budget costs.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To fund the One-Time or Cyclic Procurement CRF from the UFB instead of additional taxes.
- To authorize the expenditure of previously raised and appropriated funds in the One-Time or Cyclic Procurement CRF towards approved designated purposes. (3)

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer to pay for these one-time or cyclic expenses through the Operational Budget.
- Do not agree that funds in the One-Time or Cyclic Procurement CRF should pay for one-time or cyclic operational budget costs for approved designated purposes.

References:

1. Unassigned Fund Balance current balance: \$4,657,852, Town Finance Director Julie Jenks, via email to RVIP, 1/24/22.
2. BOS meetings 1/10/2022: supporting documents: Using One-time Cycle to reduce peak year election cost - 2022 Town Manager Budget Proposal Presentation: tinyurl.com/2p8un3bm.
3. Town Deliberative Session, 2/5/22: tinyurl.com/2p87kmc9.
4. Julie Jenks, Town Finance Director, 1/21/22 via email: “... Town is implementing a 5 year computer replacement cycle - Meaning, the Town’s computers are required to be scheduled for replacement every 5 years, 2022 being the first. In order to mitigate the costs, we are planning to have all computers replaced within the next three years (33% each year). In the end, this would create a 3 year purchase and 2 year gap procurement cycle. First and foremost, by keeping the Town’s hardware compatible with current technologies, our IT provider is better able to provide the Town a ‘lower risk’ secure environment (Ex. Ever evolving cyber attacks). Secondly, if the Town does not upgrade their hardware we run the risk of our technologies not being compatible with the outside organizations that we communicate to on a regular basis. (Ex: State of NH websites); Legal Expenses and Settlements: \$45,000 - Intended to fund unanticipated costs associated with litigations.”

Town Article 23 – One-Time or Cyclic Procurement CRF Amend Purpose

Passage of this article will change the purpose of the One-Time or Cyclic Procurement Capital Reserve Fund (CRF), 2022 Warrant Article #23, by adding a purpose to include covering/contributing to expenses for State and Federal elections. (1)(2)(3) A two-thirds vote is required for passage. There is no new tax impact.

A **YES vote** changes the One-Time or Cyclic Procurement Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) by adding a purpose to include covering/contributing to expenses for State and Federal elections.

A **NO vote** does not change the purpose of this article to include covering/ contributing to expenses for State and Federal elections.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To allow the One-Time or Cyclic Procurement CRF to cover or contribute to costs of State or Federal Elections only. (1)
- To cover or contribute to costs of State or Federal Elections without additional taxation. (2)

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Do not agree to changing the purpose of the One-Time or Cyclic Procurement CRF.
- Prefer that the costs of State and Federal Elections are funded through the Operating Budget.

References:

1. BOS meeting 1/10/22
2. “Using Onetime Cycle to reduce peak year election cost” - 2022 Draft Operational Budget, page 17: tinyurl.com/2p8un3bm.
3. “That these funds come only from amounts specifically designated and approved by voters for this purpose” was added to this Warrant Article at Town Deliberative Session, 2/5/22: tinyurl.com/2p87kmc9.

Town Article 24 – Town Vehicle/Equipment Revitalization CRF

This article will raise and appropriate \$257,500 to be placed in the Town Vehicle and Equipment Revitalization Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) (1) established by voters in 2021 in Warrant Article #32. (2) These funds will be taken from the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) and no amount from future taxation. (3)(4) These funds will subsidize the existing Capital Improvements CRF to save for various department vehicles, equipment, and facilities with additional funds, referenced in this year’ Town Warrant Article 7: Capital Improvements, which the Warrant Article states is currently underfunded to meet the needs identified in the 2020 Capital Investment Analysis. (5) A majority vote is required. There is no new tax impact.

A **YES vote** would add \$257,500 from the UFB to this CRF dedicated to the Town Vehicles and Equipment. (6)

A **NO vote** would not add monies to this CRF.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To provide additional funding for Town Department Vehicles and Equipment without raising additional tax dollars.
- To make use of the UFB. (1) (2)
- To use UFB versus bonding or borrowing money.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Funding for town vehicles/equipment revitalization already exists as a result of Warrant Article 32, which passed in 2021. (4)
- Prefer using the UFB in other ways.

References:

1. The CRFs are established in a variety of areas to purchase, repair, or maintain Town equipment and buildings that cost over \$20,000 or have a lifespan of at least 5 years.
2. Raymond NH 2021 Voting Results, page 6: tinyurl.com/3k5wu9mx.
3. NH Municipal Association, “Fund Balance: New and Improved”: tinyurl.com/4hnjka9.
4. What is an Unassigned Fund Balance: tinyurl.com/2p8mf5u4.
5. Town of Raymond 2020 CIP Analysis & 2021 Appropriation Package: tinyurl.com/yc2r4ur8.
6. The current balance in this CRF is \$260,304.35. 2022 Warrant Article Overview Deliberative Session Packet: tinyurl.com/3yp7jn77.

Town Article 25 – Road Revitalization Capital Reserve Fund

This article will contribute to the Road Revitalization Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) to support the Town’s five-year strategic initiative to upgrade and render safe the Town’s road infrastructure systems and to place \$150,000. into the 2021 established fund. These funds are to be combined with the funds received from the Road Reconstruction fund to return the Town Roads to a maintainable condition. This sum is to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) (1)(2) and no amount will be raised through new taxation. Expenditures from this fund must be approved by the Board of Selectmen (BOS). There is no new tax impact.

A **YES vote** would allow the Town to apply more funds toward road

maintenance. (3)

A **NO vote** will keep the road funding as it currently is, raised by yearly warrant articles and state funding.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To increase the yearly road maintenance to expedite work completion.
- Think that current annual budgetary funding for road maintenance is inadequate.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Disagreement with using the established fund for road projects.
- Prefer to fund road maintenance through the annual budget.

References:

1. The UFB is the residual classification for the general fund, representing the balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund. Taken from *Statement #54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board*, 2009: tinyurl.com/4my6pps8.
2. The UFB is \$4,657,852. - Finance Director Julie Jenks in an email to RVIP, 1/24/2022.
3. The current balance in this CRF is \$5,567.20. 2022 Warrant Article Overview Deliberative Session Packet: tinyurl.com/3yp7jn77.

Town Article 26 – Stormwater Planning Project (CWSRF Loan)

This article will give the Board of Selectmen (BOS) permission to seek and disperse funds for municipal stormwater planning as required and as allowed by State law. (1) The article allows the BOS to borrow \$75,000 through bonds or notes, and to determine the rate of interest. It further authorizes the BOS to offset part or all of that amount by applying for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan, with the understanding that repayment of the loan may include up to 100% principal forgiveness. (2)

This article was submitted by the Town’s engineering consultant (Weston and Sampson) to address MS-4 issues. (3)(4)(5) The Town may not need to borrow funds in expectation of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds which could cover the cost. Also, the Town can apply for \$100,000 from CWSRF. However, the BOS decided to keep the article on the warrant in the event the borrowed funds are needed. (3)(7) To pass, this article requires a three-fifths vote. There is no 2022 tax impact. Future tax impact, if funds need to be borrowed or bonded, is unknown at this time.

A **YES vote** provides permission for the BOS to borrow and spend up to \$75,000 for stormwater engineering plans.

A **NO vote** does not allow the BOS to seek, borrow, or spend funding for stormwater planning.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To allow the BOS to negotiate loans for municipal stormwater planning.
- To obtain a plan for municipal storm runoff improvements.
- To pursue a step towards implementing improved water protection for the Town as required by MS4.
- To seek additional funds for this project through the CWSRF program.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Uncertainty about how borrowed funds might or might not be repaid.
- Unknown interest rates on a potential loan or bond.
- To avoid borrowing or bonding funds for this purpose.

References:

1. RSA 33:3: Purpose of Issue of Bonds or Notes. This RSA allows a municipality to issue bonds or notes for specific purposes, including the acquisition of land, economic development, ... other public works or improvements, or for the financing of improvements, of a permanent nature...”
2. “The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) provides low-cost financial assistance [and potential loan forgiveness] for planning, design, and construction projects to communities, nonprofits, and other local government entities for both wastewater infrastructure projects (collection systems, pumping stations, and wastewater treatment) and other water pollution control projects (nonpoint source, watershed protection or restoration, and estuary management).” tinyurl.com/ca4yu2fm.

3. Discussion at BOS meeting, 12/20/21: tinyurl.com/c3hevb9x.
4. In NH, 90% of water pollution comes from stormwater runoff (e.g. roads, transfer stations, et. al.). A primary element of the MS4 is to create a Stormwater Prevention Plan for municipal operations, properties and facilities to identify best practices. -Julie LaBranche, Rockingham Planning Commission: tinyurl.com/yc8k67j4.
5. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) "There are approximately 7,250 permitted Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s), including large and small MS4s that exist nationwide, operating under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) MS4 permit. The NPDES MS4 permit requires, permittees to develop and implement a comprehensive Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) that must include pollution prevention measures, treatment or removal techniques, monitoring, use of legal authority, and other appropriate measures to control the quality of storm water discharged to the storm drains and thence to waters of the United States." tinyurl.com/mryjw3dt.
6. This article is "intended to be a Blanket Warrant Article" permitting access to CWSRF funds. "Due to anticipated additional wave of ARPA funds available to the Town, it may not be necessary to apply for the issuance of funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund in 2022." -Town of Raymond 2022 Warrant Article Overview (Pre-Deliberative): tinyurl.com/mp8xsdtv.

Town Article 27 – Full-Time Youth Services Librarian

This article increases the Dudley-Tucker Library's staffing budget by \$8,975, which allows for the difference between a 32-hour-per-week Youth Services Librarian and a 40-hour-per-week Youth Services Librarian. The intent of this Article is to bring the Children's Librarian position back to the full-time status it had before the position was split into two Children's Room Coordinators in the reorganization following Director Brox's retirement a decade ago. (1) The estimated tax impact is \$0.007 per thousand of valuation or \$1.40 on a \$200,000 home.

A YES vote increases funding to allow the Youth Services Librarian's hours to increase from 32 to 40 hours per week.

A NO vote keeps funding at a level to allow the Youth Services Librarian 32 hours per week.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- The current position used to be full-time; this article would reinstate its full-time status as a Youth Services Librarian including more programs geared toward youth of all ages and collection development.
- Librarians play a vital role for our youngsters in the community. (2)
- The full-time Youth Services Librarian's duties would include services to teens as well as younger children.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To allow the Children's Librarian to focus on our youngest citizens.
- Do not want to spend the money to increase the Librarian's hours from part-time to full-time.
- To maintain the current Children's Librarian's position at 32 hours per week.

References:

1. Letter from Kirsten Rundquist Corbett to Budget Committee Members, December 7, 2021.
2. "Children's Librarian", American Library Association, July 20, 2016: tinyurl.com/3jsaw2yz, Document ID: deee27b-7ef4-7964-8122-d305efeac36a

Town Article 28 - Citizen Petition: Election Ballots

This Citizen Petition states: "Shall the following provisions pertaining to elections be adopted? All voting shall be by paper ballot and all ballots shall be hand counted only, rather than by use of optical scanning or any other types of programmable electronic counting devices."

Since March of 2021, some citizens have expressed concerns at the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meetings about electronic voting. (1)(2) Citizens stated concerns including, but not limited to, the accuracy of machine counting, tallying, folded ballots (3)(4), and alleged inaccuracies with machine #3. (5)(6) (7) In response, Town officials explained the multi-step process of maintaining

machine accuracy and security. (1)(2)

The tax impact is not clear. Discontinuation of electronic ballot machine usage will reduce tax impact for contracted maintenance services and parts, replacements, batteries, etc. (8) Tax impact regarding increased labor costs for hand counting ballots is can not be determined at this time.

A YES vote would require the Town to stop using electronic ballot counting machines, and to hand count all ballots in all future elections.

A NO vote would continue the use of electronic ballot counting machines, with hand counting as the method for checking questionable ballots (e.g.: incomplete bubbles or checkmarks, pen instead of pencil, more selections than allowed, or incomplete erasures), and for recounts.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Concern with the accuracy and security of Raymond's voting machines. (1)(2)
- Concerns about the use of machine #3 in the last election. (5)
- To postpone any use of electronic counting machines in Raymond until the industry can improve security issues arising with machines' memory cards. (9)(10)

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Concern over inaccuracy and human error with hand counting, and resulting delays. (1)(2)
- Confidence in how Raymond Election Officials process ballots on election day. (11)(12)(13)
- Concerns about the difficulties and costs entailed in recruiting, hiring, and training additional hand ballot counters. (13)

References:

1. BOS Meeting Minutes: tinyurl.com/2p9ctf5m, specific dates: 3/15/21, 7/26/21, 8/9/21, 9/20/21, 10/25/21; (citizen concerns were presented in Public Comment), 11/1/21 (Discussion between Board of Selectmen and election officials), and 11/15/21.
2. BOS Meeting recordings courtesy of Raymond Community Television: tinyurl.com/45v9ufr5, (Same dates as referenced in #1 above).
3. "Folded ballots always have a higher possibility of being misread or rejected. The creases can cause shadowing and result in misreading/rejection." (Jeff Silvestro, LHS Associates, NH Secretary of State Meeting, 5/19/20 minutes, page 7: tinyurl.com/k5d4c3uv).
4. Alyssa Richard, Town Clerk "I believe that the issues that they had was from a town that used a folding machine... we fold them by hand, so I would assume that the crease would be more prominent with the machine. So that would probably affect it going through the machines. Definitely a good point to definitely fold some and test them that way too." -BOS Meeting, 11/1/21, at 53:21: tinyurl.com/2s3emnpd.
5. Numbers from Raymond voting machine tally tapes, Nov. 3, 2020. Results from Machine 3 are very different from those of machines #1 and #2. -Petitioner obtained the voting machine tally tapes from the Town of Raymond with a 91-A NH Right-To-Know Request.
6. The results from Machine #3 (which was used during the Presidential Election) matched the number of ballots fed into it. No candidate challenged the results or requested a recount. -Kathy MacDonald, Board Chair, Supervisors of The Checklist, email to RVIP, 1-29-22.
7. Machine 3 was used to process absentee ballots which were primarily Undeclared and Democratic voters and for voters who preferred to be unmasked. Errors made with the counting of ballots from the preprogrammed machines were primarily human error in marking the ballot. -Lisa Morrill, Board Member, Supervisors of the Checklist, in an email to RVIP, 1/29/22.
8. The "\$900 yearly maintenance fee covers the cost of repairs and replacement parts due to normal wear and tear. Additional costs are replacement battery: \$37.00, replacement ink per ribbon: \$6.95, paper rolls for the machine: \$2.25 per roll and the wire seals that are used to seal the machines and the bags they are kept in, between maintenance Ballot testing and Elections are \$39.95 per 100 pieces." Not all replacement costs are needed each year. For example, in 2021, only the wire seals needed to be purchased. -Town Clerk Alyssa Richard in an email to RVIP, 2/1/22.
9. Harri Hursti, a cybersecurity expert, has been speaking publicly about potential future hacks of American election systems since 2006. The documentaries Hacking Democracy (2006) and Kill Chain: The Cyber

War on America's Elections (2020) provide more information, as does the news article. -News article, CBS News New York, 3/23/20: tinyurl.com/5254h5xj.

10. In 2016 in Somersworth Ward 4, the errors were approximately 10% for 6 candidates. In Windham in 2020 the machines were off by over 6% for 4 candidates. -NH Secretary of State, Election Results: tinyurl.com/2p8uwars.
11. To test the machines before elections, "...we basically hold an election in Town Hall and we feed these ballots through these machines. It's a four-hour job minimum, to make sure that those machines are accurate. And they are... And the times that I've done recounts here, there have been, and I'm confident in saying, anywhere from four to six votes on a normal rule that need to be interpreted. And it's human interpretation that takes... And I will say that we are inspected every election, some part during the day that the Secretary of State Attorney General's Office will send an inspector into our location and observe our procedures, look for our postings. Look at all of the activities that are going on. And I'm proud to say that the agreement always comes out on top, and we've never had any issue." -Town Moderator Wayne Welch, speaking to the BOS, 11/1/21: tinyurl.com/3mrx5hm.
12. All 3 electronic ballot counting machines are tested the week prior to Election Day. The Town Clerk is in charge of this process and performs it on Thursday mornings while the Town office is closed. This test takes place in the lobby of the Town Hall, with no other business happening during that time. The test date is posted by the Town of Raymond at least 24 hours in advance. The way that the electronic ballot counting machines are tested is mandated by the Secretary of State's Office and the Election Committee in Concord, NH. The testing involves 50 sample ballots for the Town, and 50 sample ballots for the School District; each ballot has to be run through all 4 ways (directions), on each machine. -Discussion at Town Deliberative Session 2/5/22, starting at 4:20:47: tinyurl.com/5bsrr9aj.
13. If there is a problem with counting votes, it is most often due to human error in marking the ballot. These machines are not made to be connected to the internet. They use a disc programmed specifically for our Town. These voting machines were chosen after the Secretary of State tested several machines and selected the best options for our State. Hand counting was fine for Raymond when we had a voting population of 1,000 and 6-10 warrant articles. But the Town has grown and this old-fashioned method is a thing of the past. Now, election officials are present before voting to set-up, from 7am-7pm during voting hours, and they are required to reconcile ballot counts and questionable ballots that night. -Town Moderator Wayne Welch, in an interview with RVIP, 1/31/22.

Town Article 29 - Citizen Petition - Re-establish Full-Time Planner Position

This Citizen Petition states: "Shall the Town of Raymond vote to re-establish the Full-Time Town Planner position as defined by, but not limited to, the Town of Raymond's Administrative Code [Division 2: Board Of Selectmen's Regulations / Chapter 200. Administrative Code / Article XIX. Planning Department / § 200-60. Responsibilities of Town Planner], adopted by the Board of Selectmen effective 4-30-1990. This position was vacated in 2019 and responsibilities assumed by the Town Manager. Furthermore, the Town Planner's salary and funding shall be determined by the Board of Selectmen, after a public hearing, as granted by RSA 31:130."

This article will re-establish a Town Planner position within Raymond's Community Planning & Development Department. The position was vacated in 2019 and responsibilities were absorbed by the Town Manager at that time. (1) Currently the Community Planning & Development Department consists of a Planning Technician, which is traditionally an administrative position to a Town Planner. Additionally, there are two annual contracts with the Rockingham Planning Commission: one for Circuit Rider Services \$14,000 and one for General Planning Service \$45,040. (2)

If passed, our Board of Selectmen will be authorized to determine the annual salary and benefits as well as appropriating funding from the town's budget. In New Hampshire the average annual salary for a Town Planner is \$74,591. (3)(4) The tax impact is not known. (5)

A YES vote will re-create a Town Planner position within Raymond's

Community Planning & Development Department, with salary and funding to be determined by the Board of Selectmen.

A NO vote will not create any changes to our Town's Community Planning & Development Department.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To ensure adequate local government oversight for our Town's future land use applications and development.
- To have an employee within the local Town government to address Community Planning & Development with Town officials and residents. (6)
- To separate the duties of a Town Planner from those of the Town Manager.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To continue contracting professional services with the Rockingham Planning Commission rather than having full-time Town Planner to advise Town officials.
- To keep the responsibilities of a Town Planner within the Town Manager's duties.
- To save money by not hiring an additional Town employee.

References:

1. Town Planner responsibilities, Town of Raymond Administrative eCode: tinyurl.com/2p9yvtvk.
2. Rockingham Planning Commission Annual contracts for Circuit Rider Services and General Planning Services - Julie Jenks, Raymond Finance Director.
3. New Hampshire Town Planner average salary info: tinyurl.com/3c33ycwt.
4. Town Planner Classified ad for Town of Tilton, NH: tinyurl.com/2p95es9c.
5. BOS meeting discussion regarding factors that affect costs including when the position is posted, applicants interviewed, and the actual hiring date; 1/10/22, draft minutes, page 6, lines 276-319: tinyurl.com/2p96jkjr.
6. Discussion at Town Deliberative Session, 2/5/22: tinyurl.com/2p87kmc9.

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Make your selections and bring your list to the polls

Town Warrants:

- 1. Candidates for Elected Officials
- 2. (Citizen Petition) D/C of Town Mgr. Pos.Y ☐ N ☐
- 3. Zoning Amendment 1Y ☐ N ☐
- 4. Zoning Amendment 3Y ☐ N ☐
- 5. Zoning Amendment 5, HDC - Bean TavernY ☐ N ☐
- 6. Operating Budget/Default BudgetY ☐ N ☐
- 7. Capital ImprovementsY ☐ N ☐
- 8. Capital Reserve Funds (Water Revenues)Y ☐ N ☐
- 9. Mosquito ControlY ☐ N ☐
- 10. Scholarship FundY ☐ N ☐
- 11. 4th of July 2022Y ☐ N ☐
- 12. Social Service AgenciesY ☐ N ☐
- 13. Waste Disposal SRFY ☐ N ☐
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- 15. Road ReconstructionY ☐ N ☐
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- 17. Sick & Vacation Non-Union FundY ☐ N ☐
- 18. Elderly ExemptionY ☐ N ☐
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- 20. Disabled ExemptionY ☐ N ☐
- 21. Disabled VeteransY ☐ N ☐
- 22. One-Time / Cyclic Proc. CRFY ☐ N ☐
- 23. One-Time / Cyclic Proc. CRF-Amend.Y ☐ N ☐
- 24. Town Vehicle/Equipment Rev. CRFY ☐ N ☐
- 25. Road Revitalization CRFY ☐ N ☐
- 26. Storm Water PlanningY ☐ N ☐
- 27. (Citizen Petition) FT Youth Svcs. LibrarianY ☐ N ☐
- 28. (Citizen Petition) Election BallotsY ☐ N ☐
- 29. (Citizen Petition) Town PlannerY ☐ N ☐

School Warrants:

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- 2. Operating BudgetY ☐ N ☐
- 3. REA Collective BargainingY ☐ N ☐
- 4. REA Special MeetingY ☐ N ☐
- 5. RESS Collective BargainingY ☐ N ☐
- 6. Special Meeting RESSY ☐ N ☐
- 7. Capital Reserve FundsY ☐ N ☐
- 8. CRF Contribution from Year End BalanceY ☐ N ☐