

ELIOT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 26, 2013

PRESENT: Rebecca Davis, John Reed, Robert Fisher, William Jacques, Ed Strong (via skype)

ABSENT: Jeff Pelkey

Two members of the public present.

Meeting opened at 6:00PM

BUSINESS

1. Chair noted that aside from Police Budget the committee does not have updated spreadsheets as it has requested. Do not have the updates from the March 21<sup>st</sup> selectman's meeting.

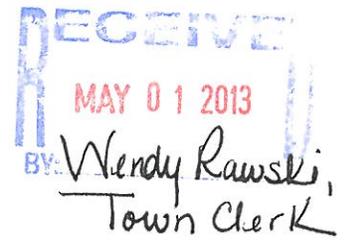
2. Outstanding questions/requests to be made again. AGREED TO WAIT TILL AFTER MEETING WITH SELECTMEN ON THURSDAY bring issues to them in hopes of getting answers and materials.

- Need updated Administrative budget and the updated excel spreadsheet (14 page) from which the warrant articles are generated.
- Need clarification and verification on DPW budget numbers re: his memo to BOS on March 15<sup>th</sup> requesting that Transfer station position be reduced (resulting in savings) and then the remaining money would be used to fund a new position at the garage which results in an increase on that side.
- Need to know if Employee benefits are included in the overtime figure for the Police Department.
- Need to know what the BOS decision is concerning a separate article for a Road repair/maintenance bond
- Administration Budget questions -Town books printing – asking for same as last year, (\$7000) but are only printing 1000 and not mailing them. Why? Asking for a \$2600 postage increase but postage hasn't gone up that much. Why? Asking for an increase of \$500 for awards/ceremonies yet only used \$298 this year. Why the increase. Question on increase of fringe benefits amounts. \$90,000 is held aside in the event an individual converts to a family plan which costs the town more. Not sure if there are restrictions on when plans can be changed (open season). Need to know how many are on each of the plans and the cost for each.
- Issue of using Skype for town committee meetings. This was raised after the meeting and the voting on the articles for the special town meeting. In our rules it only states that voting cannot be done by phone. Need a clarification of what "present" means in the ordinance. Ordinance says "present" but not "in person".
- Need copy of the draft warrant articles to work with. Chair said she will email the BOS chairman and see if can get them before the Thursday night BOS meeting

3. Chair brought to the Committee a proposed draft outline of a handout for the town meeting showing summary of total costs of all the budgets. Comparison for the last 10 years, up to the present by taking warrant article amounts, by department. Feels this would be a helpful comparison

4. Discussion on CSD move and costs; replacement/repair of Old Fields Bridge; employee payments for health benefits including police.

5. Use of Skype at Budget Committee meetings. AGREED by the Budget Committee that the members of the Budget Committee believe Skype should be allowed if approved by the Chairman and must be for a valid reason. This decision will be presented to the Selectmen for their consideration.



6. Need to determine what the criteria will be and start to discuss the 236 Sewer TIF issue. Chair has prepared a list of information and considerations that she will send to members to look at next Tuesday.
7. Compressor Station depreciation – At the last BOS meeting information was requested and has still not been given. Chair will ask again at the Thursday BOS meeting.
8. Contingency Fund information requested and has not been received. Chair will request again.
9. Statement of Account for Rt. 236 and Eliot Common's TIFs but has not been received yet.
10. Previous compensation study – not yet received. The 1999 report has been received but not the 2005 update that was mentioned in the warrant. Chair will request again.
11. Costs of family vs individual health care has not yet been received. Chair will request again.
12. Eaton Peabody Report has been received and a copy was given to members.
13. Excise tax projection for this past year is higher than what has been received so far. Need to watch this or may have to make up shortfalls from undesignated funds. Rapid renewal figures may be included in the projection but may not show up in the Receipts section of the report.
14. It was agreed that Reed and Davis get together and compile the financial information for use of the committee.
15. ECSD still hoping to get listing of programs, who works on what programs, the costs and what is taken in, etc.

#### Public Comments

Janet S., who had spent time reviewing the minutes, expressed that some of minutes were not available on the website but yet had been approved. She expressed that for a committee who is always saying they have asked for and have not gotten the information that the BC should get their house in order. There were also discrepancies in the meeting times, no agenda for tonight's meeting etc. It was replied by the Chair that the minutes were done but the Chair held on to them for approval then the reading got deferred because of other priorities in subsequent meetings. The Chair apologized for that. Janet S. suggested that in the future when putting out town survey's as was announced recently in the minutes regarding the 236 TIF they should be on the town website and not on eliot-on-line as it is not an official town site. Janet questioned if the committee has a budget. Reed replied that there is an amount and most of the monies go for any mailing to the townspeople on the warrant articles. Janet suggested that some of this could be used to hire a secretary as the selectmen do. Concerning the minutes she noted that some are signed by an individual not on the committee, but shouldn't they have the name of a member of the committee? The Chair said she will talk to Wendy and see what she wants. Fisher thanked Janet for her constructive criticisms.

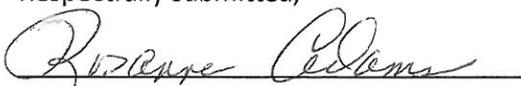
#### Closing

Fisher expressed and Strong seconded the sentiment that the Chair did a wonderful job at the special town meeting, that she expressed herself well as did also the members of the committee. Jacques said he has received several compliments at how the Budget Committee handled the town meeting.

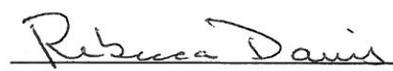
Chair expressed that she didn't think it was an entirely successful town meeting and does have some critique that she will write up and submit.

Meeting closed at 8:07pm

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rosanne Adams, Secretary

Approved by,

 04/30/13  
Rebecca Davis, Chairman Date