

ELIOT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 30, 2013



PRESENT: Bill Jacques, John Reed, Ed Strong, Bob Fisher, Rebecca Davis

ABSENT: Jeff Pelkey

Meeting opened at 6:05pm.

Business

- Minutes of March 12th, 26th and April 9th and 16th were accepted by motion of Fisher, 2nd by Strong with a Vote of 4-0. Chair concurring.
- The Chair presented an updated budget summary for use of the committee in its deliberations.
- The Chair reported on the public meeting held by Representatives Dawn Hill and Bobbi Beavers addressing state level budget cuts in municipal revenue sharing and schools proposed by Gov. Lepage.
- Transfer Station – “Pay to Throw” program.
John was asked by the chair if he might come up with some figures of what the savings would have to be to offset the cost of the program. Taking into account salaries, fringe benefits, hauling fees for the trash and revenues taken in.
- The chair of the Solid Waste Committee has asked to come speak with the Budget Committee.
- Budget Committee Informational Meeting, May 30th

The Chair suggested the BC produce a handout showing the warrant items and the BC reasoning behind the recommendations. It was felt this handout will help to clarify and simplify the budget process for the voters at the town meeting. It was AGREED that Rebecca will present this for review at the next meeting and members will email their comments.

The committee discussed additional reductions to the budgets and ways this might be done as well as how to get good information out to the people. Reed suggested making cuts to the budgets and letting department heads figure out just how they will meet their budgets but this may not be practical so it might be better to go back and look at salaries and fringe benefits again. Fisher suggested that the over ride of LD1 be the first article voted on at the Town Meeting with it being explained just what this article is all about. Davis suggested a post card or full sheet mailing bulleting the most important item concerns for the budgets. The committee discussed using a headline that will grab people’s attention – focus on the most important issue such as the % that people’s taxes will go up (possible 20%?), the revenue sharing lost, school budget increase, the amt. the budget has gone up over last year. John AGREED to draw something up and email it to committee members. The committee discussed a newspaper editorial. Bill OFFERED to write something up. John raised the issue of the undesignated fund and what it is used for. Are they reasonable expenditures? For example the CIP funding which is proposed to come out of this town “savings account”; the \$6000 for Senior Transportation is a separate warrant article and comes out of the undesignated fund. Spending has increased 5-10% each year and this year we are at a 19% increase. The undesignated fund should not be used for re-occurring expenses. These kinds of expenses should be coming out of RAISED taxes. The public needs to have a clear picture of just what the budget really is. They should “get used to the pain”.

- Joel (Highway Department director) would like to meet with the committee re: the monies proposed to be taken out due to a retirement this coming year at the Transfer Station.

- Next meeting, May 14th. Joel will be asked to meet with the committee at 6pm.
- Following meeting – May 21st at 6pm.
- The Chair asked Bob to summarize, for the next meeting, the ECSD request for their move to the school. Bob AGREED to do this.
- For the next meeting the agenda will include discussion re: other possible cuts to the budget; Article #46, Road reconstruction monies; the Good neighbor petition.

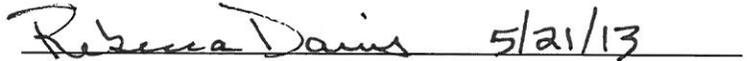
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Rosanne Adams, Secretary

Approved by,



Rebecca Davis, Chairman

Date