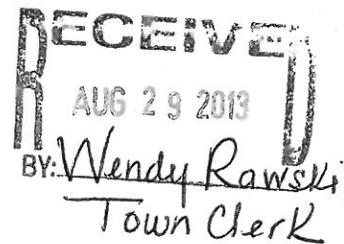


ELIOT BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES  
MAY 21, 2013

Meeting opened at 6:05PM

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

ABSENT: Jeff Pelkey, Bill Jacques (illness)



NEW BUSINESS

1) Meeting with Joel, head of DPW. Discussion of a) Sewer expansion project and b) issue of Budget Committee's removal of monies for manager's salary at the Transfer Station.

a) Joel went over the costs for the S. Eliot part of the Sewer expansion project. He said the \$1.16 million breakdown cost is actually around \$1.9 million. The Contingency Fund of the TIF project will help with paying for the upgrades of the pumping stations. Without the TIF funds being approved the users will have to pay for these costs. As it presently stands the total cost will be paid for with TIF funds, although they are also figuring out the rate increases with sewer using paying a % of the upgrade costs for comparison. Asked about the location of the pumping stations: #1 is on Main Street, #2 by Don Sylvester's, and #3 is on Dixon Ave. Presently there is no user rate increase planned for pump station #7 for at least 5 years.

b) Removal of Transfer Station Manager's salary. Joel explained that his plan was to use the remaining amount for this coming year to eliminate the summer help at the Garage and hire a part-time person. This would be at a lower pay scale with it being 32 hours or less and no benefits. Joel will assume the management of the Transfer Station and replace the manager's position with a part-time foreman at a slightly higher pay. This should result in a \$10,000 savings to the town. For the 2014-15 budget season, with the manager position eliminated there would then be 5 full time workers at the Garage and all Transfer Station workers will be part-time with no benefits. He has already cut hauling fees and believes with the Pay to Throw program implemented he can realize a "0" budget for the Transfer Station within the next 3-4 years. Bradstreet is the last full time/part time at 28 hrs. Asked about Rosso's pay and benefits still listed but he is not working there Joel explained that those monies have been kept in to offset "fill-in" needs at the Transfer Station. Asked about scheduling workers for winter plowing he said that he tries not to use the full time workers because he would have to pay them overtime. He tries to shift hours (come in late, go home early and come back, etc.) to try and minimize the overtime.

c) Joel reported that the operational budget is down from last year. In response the Chair stated that the Budget Committee looks at all items in the warrants that relates to a department in determining if the budget is actually down.

d) Joel was questioned about the work to be done on the Old Field's Road Bridge. Eliot's share of that would be \$50,000 to be set aside this year and next year for a total of \$100,000. This is one option and the other would be to spend \$30,000 to just repair it. (would last another 10 years). Concern was expressed about the flow of the water and the major damage that is being caused on the South Berwick side. Joel said that they are looking at the flow pattern and what can be done. They are looking to put a concrete bridge in vs. a culvert.

Budget Committee members questioned the warrant article that states an amount that will go toward replacing rather than fixing the bridge. It was a consensus that when anyone last heard it was just going to be fixed. Joel thought that the initial decision was to repair at the lower cost and then he talked with them again and they decided to fix it. He didn't remember at what meeting this occurred.

e) Asked if he had a plan for the monies requested for the road work (\$500,000) and how it was going to be done, he replied that he does have a plan and that all road work will be contracted out. The town does not have a grader so they can't do that work and contracting it out puts the liability, if something should not be done right or goes wrong, on the company.

2) MINUTES - April 30<sup>th</sup> minutes were presented and motion made by Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Strong to approve. VOTE 3-0. Chair Concur.

3) REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) John talked with the chair of the Recycling Committee and they would like an opportunity to speak with the Budget Committee about the "Pay to Throw" program.

b) There will be a public hearing Tues. May 28 on the Warrant Articles. Notice was received by the Budget Committee from the BOS and the Chair forwarded it on to members.

c) The Budget Committee's public hearing will be held on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

d) Article in recent newspaper seems to imply that having a town manager will do away with the Budget Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Statement from Budget Committee to be mailed to residents. There was a CONSENSUS to mail a letter. Fisher presented the requested proposed statement by the Budget Committee concerning the ECSD move article. The Chair then asked for a breakdown of the monies that were being requested. He agreed to do this. Reed volunteered to take the BC statement in the town book and do some editing, adding more information and present at the next meeting. Suggestions/additions were made to Reed –mention of the school budget and how it will affect the tax rate, actual spending to include what is taken out of un-appropriated surplus, hope for a flat budget, LD1 article and capping any increase of new taxes, etc.

2) Committee comments for Warrant Articles. The Chair has taken what has been discussed at previous meetings, staying with what the committee has already voted for, and will complete and mail out to all BC members. She made note that with the BC recommendations it will result in an increase of \$65,000 for the overall budget.

3) Budgets and further cuts. A majority of committee members agreed that the BC should stay with what has already been voted.

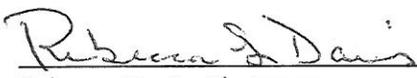
NEXT MEETING – May 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, to be followed by the Public Hearing at 7pm. The committee will go over the letter to the public, review minutes, and complete any outstanding tasks.

Meeting closed at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rosanne Adams, Secretary

Approved by,

 06-12-13  
Rebecca Davis, Chairman Date