

ELIOT BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2013

PRESENT: Rosanne Adams, Rebecca Davis, Robert Fisher, William Jacques, Donna Murphy, Edward Strong
ABSENT: Phil Lytle

Meeting opened at 6:37 PM.

BUSINESS

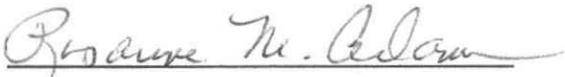
1. Referendum : will be August 27th, 10am-6pm at the Elementary School. Absentee ballots are available. Committee members expressed strong displeasure with voting hours as they limit working people getting to the polls.
 - MOTION by Fisher, 2nd Murphy that Bill write a letter to Editor on behalf of the Budget Committee supporting the cuts proposed by the Selectmen: Choice "B" on the referendum ballot. VOTE: 5-0 [Chair concurs] Donna will help Bill with the writing.
2. Goals for the coming year [suggestions made by members to consider]:
 - LD 1 cap and keeping the budget at that level.
 - Look at 2012-13 year's budget and shoot for that – level funding.
 - Take a look at niceties vs. necessities in department budgets.
 - Pare down the budget process – see if we can come to some agreement with Selectmen that there be a set number of department budget revisions (perhaps 3 - Nov., Jan., Feb.) and subsequent comments by selectmen/budget committee rather than a new budget update/change every week by department heads.
 - Urge Selectmen to give clear directives to department heads and hold them to deadlines.
 - Take a serious look at the School Budget to help better inform the public about the impacts of those expenditures
 - Pursue obtaining more detail in financial reports including expenditures – detailed monthly vendor reports as needed.
 - Focus an attempt on zero-increase budgets.
3. Topics/concerns to bring up at the 8-15-2013 Selectman Meeting. AGREED to have Chair address these issues with the selectmen:
 - Community Service Department move - where is that at? Why the delay? Is cost being used as the reason, as reported in the newspaper? There has been no mention by the ECSD Director in her cost estimate or by the Selectmen of the donation of the plumbing and electrical work for the move, which brings the cost down considerably. It had previously been expressed at a BOS meeting that the estimate needed a closer look.
 - Ask that Budget information be received in electronic form – request that the selectmen move toward this if they don't have the capability at present.
 - Ask that the Budget Committee chair receive the same folder that the selectmen receive for their (BOS) meetings a few days before their meeting so that she can check and make BC members aware of items that might be of interest/concern to them. MOTION by Fisher, 2nd Strong. VOTE: 5-0 [Chair concurs]
 - What is the status of the policy re: use of SKYPE for meetings? Information was given on this months ago.
 - Express the Budget Committee's displeasure that the monies that came back to our School district were NOT used to reduce our taxes. We urge them to express the same displeasure to the SAD #35 Superintendent and School Board. MOTION by Adams, 2nd Murphy. VOTE: 5-0 [Chair concurs]

4. General Discussion

- AGREED that all requests of the Budget Committee for information will be made in writing and that the Chair will keep a running list of the questions, to whom they were addressed, and the response or lack thereof.
- Next meeting September 10th, 6:30PM.
- The Chair distributed the Town's Year End Financial Report for members and public attending. Noted that electronic copies will also be sent out. Next meeting will be looking for specific suggestions as to how to proceed and the goals that we want to set for the coming year.

Meeting closed at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Rosanne Adams, Secretary

Approved by,

 09-10-13
Rebecca Davis, Chairman Date