

**SPECIAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**April 19, 2012 6:00 PM**

**Quorum noted**

**6:00 PM:** Meeting called to order by Chairman Fernald.

**Roll Call:** Mr. Fernald, Mr. Moynahan, Ms. Place, Mr. Murphy, and Mr. Dunkelberger.

**New Business (Correspondence List):**

**#1**

**6:01 PM**

**Executive Session**

Mr. Moynahan moved, second by Mr. Murphy to go into Executive Session as allowed by 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6) (a), "Discussion or consideration of the...compensation, evaluation, disciplining, resignation, or dismissal of an individual or..." Personnel issue.

**VOTE**

**4-0**

**Chair concurs**

**6:38 PM** Out of executive session. No motion was made nor decision reached.

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

**6:39 PM** Motion by Mr. Moynahan, seconded by Mr. Murphy, to approve the minutes of March 8, 2012, as amended.

**VOTE**

**4-0**

**Chair concurs**

**6:40 PM** Motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Place, to approve the minutes of April 11, 2012, as written.

**VOTE**

**4-0**

**Chair concurs**

**6:41 PM**

**#2**

TO : Board of Selectmen

FROM :

REF : Budget and Warrant (Memo from John Reed on Sewer Article.)

Ms. Shapleigh presented a petition with 104 signatures to the Board to reinstate the \$10,000 budgeted in the last two Town warrants for the Senior Citizen Program and request to continue with the same director. She added that the signatures were gathered since the last Board meeting, a relatively short time, and asked that it be put back on the warrant.

Mr. Fernald clarified that this money would be used for the same person who ran the program at ECSD.

Ms. Shapleigh said yes and added that she believed this was a small amount of money for the senior citizens of this community compared to what they were paying in the school budget every year.

Mr. Moynahan said that the \$10,000 was to make up for a shortfall in the Enterprise Account, that that portion of the ECSD budget was not self-supporting. He added that, with concessions in this year's budget, he believed that position had been eliminated with or without that \$10,000. He said that he would need clarification from the department director but, as he understood it, the program itself would not be affected.

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Ms. Shapleigh clarified that her point was that senior citizens wanted to continue that program, as it was, with the person they had the rapport with. She asked the Board who and how many on the Board had had someone come to them demanding they cut that out or cut personnel because she believed there were a few causing the Board to cut personnel and cut budgets. She added that she thought many would be satisfied with across-the-board the same and nobody she knew was looking to have someone lose their job.

Mr. Moynahan clarified that, for himself, he didn't listen to what many people said – that he formed his own opinions. He added that he listened to the information provided and made his own opinion on things. He said that there were people who did and did not support many things but, at the end of the day, his position had no bearing on what people said. Addressing outside influences, he said that they did not play a role, as he did research to come up with his best opinion on an issue.

Ms. Shapleigh said that the Board was charged to represent the people of this community and she had 104 signatures.

Mr. Moynahan said that he was not dismissing that but trying to explain who he was and how he approached things; that he was not listening to 2 phone calls or emails, that that had no bearing in his mind.

Ms. Shapleigh said that, it seemed to her that, when they went out to do what they did, then they should have had a number of people say the Board wanted that task completed.

Mr. Moynahan said that the departments represented their own items for review and that the Board did not direct anyone to eliminate staff – that they directed department heads to review their employee costs and that was all. He added that each department came with their own recommendations and that was all.

Ms. Shapleigh clarified that they did that upon the Board's instruction to do that.

Mr. Moynahan agreed – to review employee costs.

**6:40 PM**

Ms. Place said that her sense was that they asked the department heads to look at their staffing and decide where they could make cuts, that they listened to that and tried to make decisions wisely.

Janet Saramon? Asked if there was a chance they could hear the statement on the petition.

Ms. Place read the statement on the petition.

Mr. Dunkelberger said, in answer to Ms. Shapleigh's question, that he had gotten a lot of feedback on both sides. He added that he listened to the feedback, processed it, then made the best call he thought would benefit the citizens of Eliot, based upon that feedback.

Mr. Fernald said that he thought that one of the things the Board needed to look at was all the avenues as they went through the budget but, basically, it was really up to the people of the Town to make the decisions on the budget, itself. He added that one of the ways to do that would be to have this as a separate warrant on the budget itself so that people could actually make that decision.

Ms. Shapleigh said that that was why they got the signatures, so that they could have a chance.

Ms. Lewin discussed how she had always approached budgeting, as she had managed \$55,000,000 worth of business for a very long time. She said that she

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approached the budget, at the direction of her department managers, to build the best budget she could build to fulfill the responsibilities that she had. She added that she never allowed any fluff (as some would call it) and, if she could get along on a zero-increase budget, she did that because it was the right thing to do in tough times. She said that they always asked everybody to have their wish list of the things they thought they should be doing or wanted to do and to set priorities for those things. She added that she lived with that, even though it wasn't always easy, and she thought the direction to people should be was to bring in the closest they could bring in to a zero-balance budget and make their wish lists. Ms. Lewin said that there have been a lot of people who have called her that were really upset about that position being cut. She added that it was as much about the individual who fulfilled that position because that person took them everywhere that they go on trips, which the seniors pay for, and she took good care of these old folks, of which she was one and qualified to speak. She added that this person did not leave them on their own, took them where they wanted to go, and did a great job with pulling the programs together. She also added that, if one of these people was sick, or had a problem, etc., this person did that stuff off the clock for them and took care of them. Ms. Lewin said that, personally, she thought some 20% of Eliot's population was over 65% and, of that 20%, there was about 75% was over 75 the last time they did the numbers. She said that she thought they were entitled to have a voice and she thought it was important to the Town to understand that what they do with Community Service, here, has offended the daylights out of a lot of people from the get-go – never liked the program, didn't want it, and didn't think it was needed; it was perfectly okay to go play in the ball field, they didn't need a good ball field, go play outside by the house. Ms. Lewin said that it wasn't like it was 65 years or so ago and she was a kid and they could do that – they live in a very different world, adding that they didn't have an excessive ECSD here by standards of towns around them, that it was small and did an adequate job. She said that no one was looking to make it a great humongous program; they were looking to fulfill services to people who needed them. She said that she could tell them, as a State representative, if she got one or two calls, whatever it was, was not a big issue, but about the time she got 4 or 5, she knew there was a big issue afoot. She added that those 104 signatures were gathered from folks without anyone breaking a sweat to do it and gathered by people from 72 to 88 years old – they were not happy and she thought they should all pay attention to that and, if it means they needed to shave a thousand here or there in some of the other departments to do that, then she would figure out a way to do, as somebody who understood a budget – she would make it her business to restore that and not infuriate the population. She said that it wasn't just the old folks who were angry, that their middle-aged children were not too happy about it and some of them signed those petitions, as well. She added that she thought they needed to listen to the constituents, adding that it was not easy for a lot of those folks to gather those signatures but they did it and reiterated that she thought it was important to listen to them.

**6:54 PM**

Mr. Pomerlau said that he was somewhat confused about what was going forward, here, with this cut, and he thought that seniors were going to be excluded from services at ECSD but he thought they had clearly heard that a reduction in this position was not going to impact delivery services to seniors. He added that it was hard to believe that, with a \$250,000 budget, that somehow seniors could not be mainstreamed into everyday services. He reiterated that it was his understanding that there would be no impact to seniors and, if that is not so, then that needs clarification.

Ms. Shapleigh said that the difference was that it was the opinion of one person that the cut would not impact the seniors and the seniors feel it will impact them. She commented that, if one were going to the doctor, one would want to choose their own – the seniors have experience with the woman that has worked with them and it was the difference whether they were dropped off by the bus and picked up or like having a group leader who stayed with them and knew their problems and helped them. She added that that is why these seniors feel the

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freedom to go on these trips and do these things, so it was all about the care that they got, that it was easy for others to want to save money and find someone else that would do it cheaper, but she thought this was done very reasonably and that they care particularly for the person who has helped them inside the department and outside the department when they have had problems – it was all about the care that they were getting.

**6:55 PM**

Ms. Adams said that the ECSD Director has told the Board and the people that they would have to undergo some change but that the services would not be cut so, therefore, she trusted the Director to know what she was doing. She added that the Board asked the department heads, where they saw that they could do it, to make cuts and they've done it, and already the Board has come and micromanaged and said they did not want them to make that cut and, now again, the director of that department saying that this would be okay, that the services would still be there and the Board was considering bringing it back. She said that it seemed like there were two opposing things going on here: one was saying don't micromanage the department and, yet, when they tell the Board what they could live without, that the Board would say no they could not.

Mr. Fernald asked if she didn't think the Board should be considering the petition.

Ms. Adams reiterated that she didn't see that the programs were getting cut, that the ECSD Director has said that the programs would not be cut for the seniors and so, therefore, she says she didn't need the \$10,000, then she believed her.

Mr. Fernald clarified that they weren't talking about a cut in the programs but the person that was running the programs.

Ms. Adams commented that she didn't get to choose her doctor every year, as her health plan changes and requires a change in doctors, and that is just the way it is. She said that she was sure the Director could find someone on her staff that could provide that service; that they didn't have extensive programming that she could see on the website. She added that some of it was handled with trips, such as a restaurant and show, which was handled by an outside concern.

Ms. Shapleigh said that it was not.

Mr. Fischer said that he just read the article and it didn't say anything about a director but only that they wanted to add the \$10,000 because of some fund that was cut. He added that someone had taken a position that "it was one individual" and that "one individual" didn't feel bad when Florence Moulton was kicked off the job she volunteered to do working with the seniors when they hired the new girl. He added that Ms. Moulton was devastated that she lost her job volunteering to help the seniors and, at the next Town Meeting they had the Fabian Drake Award for her for her services as a senior person who worked with the seniors to take their trips.

**7:00 PM**

Ms. Grover said that the lady who took them on their trips, now, got them off the bus, went with them, stayed with them, and went back with them, adding that, if anything happened to them, then she would be there. She said that, at one point, the Director went with them on two trips and let us off the bus, sitting on the bus and waiting for them to come back and, if anything had happened to any one of them, then they would never have known it. She added that the one who they had now went with them, pays the bills after they (seniors) give her the money, and she stayed with them all the time. Ms. Grover said that they were senior citizens, that she was 85 and she didn't mind telling anyone, but she would not want to have to go with a group of people and nobody responsible for them.

Mr. Reed said that this seemed to him like a personnel issue – everyone seemed concerned about this particular Senior Programs Coordinator. He said that it seemed to him that because the ECSD Director said that the senior program could

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be supported by the ECSD that they could, perhaps, pay this person to be the Senior Coordinator and reduce the salary or hours of whoever else was in the ECSD so that the services she said would be divided, would not be divided, and the people who would have taken her place to give the seniors their services just did not get paid for something they would not be doing, because she would be handling that.

Mr. Brandon said that he thought that Mr. Moynahan gave a very correct explanation of how this came about, as that was what he heard, too, in that it was through a discussion with the Board and ECSD Director that she needed to reduce her budget by an amount and she came up with letting go of the Senior Program (and Special Events) Coordinator as a way of doing that. He added that she could be directed by the Board right now to adjust within her budget to come up with \$7,000, \$8,000, or even \$10,000 by moving some things around here and there, which is exactly what he has watched the Board do in order to reduce the budget. He added that he was sure that, under the Board's direction, she could do the same thing and come up with enough money to hire someone for the Senior Program, whether it was the same person or not. Mr. Brandon suggested that, now, they were in another leg of the budget-setting process and to go back and put a warrant article in for \$10,000 on top of all the work the Board has done already did not make sense to him. He added that he thought Ms. Lewin didn't make much sense, either, in the way she talked about budgeting, to do it that way.

**7:05 PM** Ms. Lewin asked to respond. She said that she spent 18 years on the Budget Committee, here, and some of the best budgets that were ever cut for the Town she had a very major hand in and she was sure a number of people on that Board would tell him that was true. She added that she spent 6 years on the County Budget Committee where they did a mighty fine job and she spent 8 years in the State Legislature where she was maybe one of 10 or 20 out of 151 who stood up and fought about budgets. She added that did the the budgets in a manner that was directed to be very specific about their specific lines and they reviewed every single one of those lines, they listened to a whole lot of testimony, they had a lot of people show up all the time every day. She said that it was not an easy thing to make decisions about what needed to be cut and she has never be a one to be afraid of that. She added that this was a year that they needed to be thinking about level budgeting and everyone should be thinking level budgeting – no one should be thinking increases and anyone who has had one-time expenditures should back them right out of the budget because they were not going to be there again. Ms. Lewin said that, at the risk of seeming rude and obnoxious, she took great exception to his thinking that she didn't know anything about budgeting.

There was disagreement that Mr. Brandon implied that.

Ms. Brandon said that she heard the comment that Eliot has a small ECSD and she just wished people could bring facts. She added that maybe she was wrong but she thought South Berwick was smaller than Eliot's. She added that the last she knew South Berwick had one employee and asked if anyone knew any differently.

Ms. Muzeroll-Roy said that the South Berwick Recreation Department was primarily run by private-sector volunteers, much differently than Eliot, and believed there was one person who oversaw the department and one other person, as well. She added that they primarily have a senior center and most of their youth programs were run by volunteer organizations.

**7:08 PM** Mr. (Frank) Murphy said that he just read today where ECSD was going to be 9% of the Town budget and he felt that that was a lot for a small town like Eliot. He added that he paid approximately \$2,500 a year for his house and a 70/30 split with the school, paying \$750 for the Town, so he was paying \$75 a year for the ECSD to fund adult entertainment, which is basically what the senior thing was, and only 20% using it. He said that he didn't want to pay that anymore. He said

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that he had been an advocate of turning the ECSD into a user fee-based system. He added that, in the past two weeks there have been newspaper articles about Kittery opening their new senior center in the old Frisbee building and that town has basically mandated that that department become self-sustaining in three years. He added that Exeter had an article three days ago that said they did not have a Community Service Department, that they had a private entity coming in to try to establish one, instead of spending the money where they were going to, they were going to buy the old YMCA, and that was totally self-sustaining. Mr. Murphy said that they added the police cruiser and dogcatcher last week and approved a \$285,000 budget for the ECSD last week and, from what he read for next year, their proposed budget is \$375,000 from work coming from Public Works into the ECSD. He asked if the Public Works budget went down by \$100,000.

Mr. Moynahan clarified that that was for this year, that the ECSD already includes the parks portion, it has already been transferred from Public Works...interrupted and could not hear the rest of the clarification.

Mr. Murphy asked why the Town ECSD could not be self-sustaining like other towns around them. He asked why this Town was spending that kind of money on a department that other towns have self-sustained operations.

Mr. Fernald said that the budget Mr. Murphy was talking about included salaries, (side conversations interrupted speaker) which was run off an enterprise account, which was fees from the people who actually used the services.

Mr. Moynahan clarified that the whole budget was about \$250,000, which was salary and benefits and their operating costs, however, was around \$40,000, not counting the parks. He said that, for the first time in memory, they have been having the departments break down their budgets – that for years no department knew what their salary lines were, what their benefit lines were – and they were starting to break those out to make it a little bit easier to understand. He added that, in the five years he has been here, the ECSD has always paid the salaries for two full-time positions and benefits for all the full-time positions there. He said that their operating budget actually decreased this year from last year and they did incur the responsibility of entire parks budget from last year that was in the Public Works Department.

Mr. Murphy asked if the Public Works budget decrease by that much.

Mr. Moynahan said that the budget went up but, in that portion, that line item did see a decrease.

Mr. Murphy said that, as a Board, they were letting the department heads shuffle work around Town to different departments, now, to cut up budgets for everybody.

Mr. Moynahan clarified that they tried to clarify who was responsible for all that because, for the last several years, two departments had overlapping responsibilities and this was to clarify who would be responsible for all the staffing and all the parks and put it all in one department head's hands. He added that those two department heads were told to figure that out and they decided that ECSD would be the one to include that in their budget and oversee that.

Mr. Murphy asked if the Board had the authority to mandate that the ECSD become self-sustaining in, say, three years or five years.

Mr. Moynahan said that he did not know if that was up to a group of five people to decide.

Mr. Fischer said that, if he remembered correctly, that when this department was started it was supposed to be self-sustaining.

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Mr. Murphy said that he thought it was because of citizens like the lady in the corner over there that, yes, they need the \$10,000 for the senior citizens and somebody else would say they needed \$20,000 for child care and, oh, they needed to keep up the park and, oh, they have a ball park to take care of, etc. and it just kept escalating and somewhere it had to stop and it was the Board's responsibility to make that stop.

Mr. Fernald disagreed with him about the action of the Board.

Mr. Murphy asked if they weren't in place to make the taxes stay low.

Mr. Fernald said that he would like to finish. He said that he was on the Board that hired the first Director when the Town voted to have Community Service and they indicated that they would like to have it self-sustaining except for the salaries. He added that they wanted the operating costs self-sustaining and that was why they created the enterprise account. He said that the Town started off with \$7,000 they gave to the ECSD to start the enterprise account. He said there was never anything about salaries and the Town always figured they would have to pay someone just like any other department. He discussed that the enterprise account was a separate account and was the funds that people put in to pay for those programs to run those programs and the auditor reviews the enterprise account. He added that the amount in that account varied throughout the year depending on how many programs, how many people were in those programs, and how many programs were going on at any given time.

Ms. (Kathy) Vetter clarified that the operating budget for the ECSD was going to be \$200,000 some odd for 2012/2013.

Ms. Place said the figure was \$272,000.

Ms. Vetter asked if that figure included the parks and rec.

The Board said yes.

Ms. Vetter asked if the ECSD Director would be using her existing personnel to take care of the parks and rec – would the salary come out of the \$272,000 budget for someone to take care of that or would they hire someone new to do that.

Mr. Moynahan said yes, seasonal summer part-time employees were hired.

Ms. Muzeroll-Roy agreed and said that has been happening for the past two summers.

Mr. Fernald said that they would only take a couple more because they had some work ahead of them, time was going by but they wanted to hear all the input.

**7:17 PM**

Mr. Reed said that ECSD had money from two different sources – one was the so-called enterprise account, the one that people pay in user fees, and there might be some donations and grants - and they had no visibility in how much the grants were at this point, yet. He added that the Town kicked in \$200,000 some odd every year but then there is additional money that the users pay in and he didn't really know how much that was. He said that that would be really good to know. He also added that that paid the salaries of the temporary and part-time people. Mr. Reed said that the Town paid for the FICA and taxes and all the overhead related to the salaries so, the amount of money the ECSD spent was actually more than the \$272,000 that the Townspeople paid for, it was also user fees, so it was actually quite a large funding.

Mr. Brandon asked if they knew how much the income was from programs, user fees, from 2010/2011.

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Ms. Place said they had the ordinary income/expense for 7/1/2011 to 2/1/2012 and the income was \$53,009. She added that the grant was \$11,500 from York Hospital.

**7:20 PM** Mr. Salsberg said that he had been involved in budgeting in another community in Connecticut for many years and he was actually a bit surprised at what was going on at this meeting. He said that, when the Board asked a director to submit a budget and they cut the budget – he has never seen a Board put something back because they had faith in the director, the person who submitted the budget. He added that they asked that person to deliver – they did their job – and if the Board didn't like the job they did, then get rid of the director. Mr. Salsberg said that they were only talking about twelve months, here, and if the director's budget didn't seem to work because of the personnel, then twelve months down the road it could be changed. He said to put confidence in their director or don't ask the director to submit a budget. He added that he didn't know why they asked – accept it for what it was, especially in tough times.

**7:22 PM** Mr. Fernald, addressing the Board, said that they had been asked, by petition, to put back the \$10,000 for this person and asked for comments.

Mr. (Jack) Murphy said that the suggestion to let the citizens of the Town, as a whole, make that decision was fine, adding that they wanted them to get involved and let them come to Town Meeting and say they wanted it or not. He said they should have that as a separate warrant article. Mr. Murphy said that, in the latest version draft #9 of the whole budget, for the ECSD the total was \$228,938.27 and was comprised of three items: \$95,004.80 for payroll, \$54,833.47 for fringe benefits, and for all the things they do, utility services, etc. and including the parks it was \$79,100.

Mr. Dunkelberger agreed with Mr. Murphy. He said that, if the people of Eliot want this, feel it was important and wanted to override the director's recommendation, then so be it.

**7:25 PM** Ms. Place said that she thought that was the only way they could do that at this point because they have already voted on the ECSD budget.

Mr. Moynahan said that this late in the process he could not support a separate warrant article and that was his personal opinion, that it had nothing to do with performances or anything but was about priority and keeping to a zero increase. He added that he could not support a separate warrant article for any department.

Mr. Fernald said that he thought they needed a motion on this item.

**7:26 PM** Mr. Murphy moved, second by Mr. Dunkelberger, to put on a Town Meeting warrant for \$10,000 for the Senior Citizen Program and this person as a separate article.

**VOTE**

**3-1 (Mr. Moynahan)**

**Chair concurs in the affirmative**

Mr. Fischer said that, with the money that would be raised – the \$10,000 – where would the money be going to, in the escrow account for their department.

Mr. Fernald said no, that it would be used separately for that person.

Mr. Fischer clarified that that part-time person would come out of Town funds and not the escrow account.

Mr. Fernald agreed and said the townspeople would be voting on that article for that money to be used for that specific purpose.

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Mr. Fernald asked if there were any other changes to the budget before them. He said that it equates to a mil rate of \$12.60, which would relate to a six cents increase per \$1,000 in taxes.

**7:30 PM**

Mr. Moynahan said that last week they went through the major department's budgets – Administration, Police, Fire, Highway, ECSD - and what he thought they had tasked this meeting for was to go over all remaining warrant articles. He added that he thought they should be reviewing things like video streaming, the outside agencies, and that sort of thing to see if there were any reductions or increases or however the Board wanted to move forward so they could finalize and get warrant language done and getting it to the BC for their review. He discussed the items on page 13 of 14 he felt they needed to address tonight, adding that he did not believe they had anything back from the people working on the ECSD building, yet.

The Board went through the budget items needing decisions.

**Senior Transport** for \$6,000 – this was a shared service with several other towns under YCCAC - supported.

**Land Bank** for \$12,500 – this was to reimburse the bank for expenditures and continue funding that for potential Town Forest purchases and that sort of thing.

Mr. Moynahan said that he did not think he could support the entire total this year and, to keep it going, he might support \$8,000 towards that.

Ms. Place said that she thought that was reasonable.

Mr. Dunkelberger said that he would like to see it even lower and wondered why they were buying land. He added that, philosophically, he would like to see it at zero.

Mr. Murphy said that he did not want to see Eliot stop being Eliot, even in hard times, and he believes there was property closely connected to the current Town Forest on Johnson Lane that the current owners wanted to sell and it would connect isolated parcels that were already a part of the Town Forest and would increase the usability of the Town Forest area and the wetlands associated with that. He added that this was part of a plan that the Town had been working on for many years, with investments in committee time and Town money.

Ms. Place moved, second by Mr. Murphy, to fund the Land Bank for \$8,000 from undesignated funds.

**VOTE**

**3-1 (Mr. Dunkelberger)**

**Chair concurs in the affirmative**

**Outside Agencies** for \$24,897.

Mr. Moynahan discussed that last year the Board considered not funding this and it kind of came back and bit them, that the opinion was that people could make their own choices who they wanted to donate to, and he was not going to even attempt to discuss going zero with that this year – it was just too much of a heated discussion and too important to a lot of people that spoke last year.

This was supported.

**Town Committees** for \$34,602.50.

Mr. Moynahan said that this was already reduced by \$5,000 at prior budget meetings and would be comfortable supporting this request in those dollar figures.

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This was supported.

**Sewer Bonds** for \$39,000 – supported.

**7:41 PM**      **Historical Society** for \$2,300 – supported.

**Library** for \$140,000 (asked for \$145,000)

A member of the audience asked if there was a description of what the \$140,000 was for.

Mr. Fernald said this was for salaries and operating expenses. He added that they take a certain amount of money out of their investments to meet their budget, as well.

Mr. Reed said that, with all due respect, it was a gift from the Town to the library every year.

A member of the audience asked the amount remaining on the sewer bond.

Mr. Moynahan said there were five payments remaining on the sewer bond. He added that the sewer reserve was something different.

This was supported.

**Senior Programs** for \$10,000 – already decided.

**Public Safety, ECSD, Highway Reserve, and the Transfer Station** – already discussed.

**Snow account** for \$160,000 – supported.

**Highway** – already discussed.

**Reserve Accounts** for \$5,000 for Administration – supported.

**7:45 PM**      **Fire Truck Reserve** for \$25,000 – already discussed.

**CIP** for \$88,000 – supported

**Fire Department** for \$144,120 – already discussed.

**Police Bond** – it was discussed that this was a must.

**Regular/Expanded Video Streaming** for \$3,000, with additional \$2,004 for expansion. They will be two separate warrant articles.

**General Assistance** for \$65,000 – supported.

**Admin/Contracts** for \$941,981 – supported

**Fringe Benefits** for \$682,902 – already discussed.

**Cruiser Account** for \$0 - \$18,000 was restored last week by the Board.

**7:50 PM**      Mr. Reed, discussing the Fringe Benefits, said that that was almost \$700,000 and it belonged in the various departments' budgets. He said that he has requested this before and was requesting, again, to have the fringe benefits be broken out by department in the warrant articles for each department.

Mr. (Frank) Murphy asked what fringe benefits were.

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Mr. Reed explained that they were everything that was associated with salary – FICA, health care insurance, retirement, taxes.

Mr. Moynahan said that he knew it had been requested for the last year or so and there had been questions about having that funded in its entirety or broken down by each department. He asked if it would be a good compromise to offer page 14 of 14 in the Town Book at Town Meeting that broke down each department and their expenditures so it wasn't all lumped together but payroll, fringe, and operating costs were all separated.

Mr. Fernald said that he thought it was something they could do if it was more beneficial for people to see how it was broken out. He clarified that it would not affect whether the article passed or not because they couldn't actually vote on fringe benefits.

Mr. Reed said that they did that last year – the fringe benefits were detailed in the warrant article by department but he felt it was important for the people to see what they were paying for in each department, including fringe benefits. Using ECSD as an example, he said the fringe benefits were skewed because they have been paying for fringe benefits for all the employees when, in fact, for the rest of the departments it was a different case. He added that the ECSD had extra part-time people that didn't show up because of the Enterprise Fund and it would be good to vote on a department's budget instead of piecemeal.

Mr. Dunkelberger said that he thought Mr. Moynahan's suggestion met what Mr. Reed was proposing.

There was disagreement with Mr. Dunkelberger's statement.

Mr. Reed said that his concern was that any particular department could drain that account for whatever reason – however the arithmetic worked – then other departments would end up getting caught short and the Town end up with situations where they could be over budget by the end of the year and nowhere to reconcile that. He added that each department had its fringe benefits based on their projected salaries, then that was what they would get and they would know that and the Board would know that.

Mr. Dunkelberger clarified, using the Police Department as an example, that what Mr. Reed was proposing in the warrant article the elements included in the Police Department's budget are what they would be voting on, so, everything that was on that last page was broken up, which was payroll, fringe, and operating costs.

Mr. Reed agreed, saying that would give everyone some control over the size and shape of the box.

Mr. Dunkelberger clarified that that was what Mr. Moynahan suggested.

Mr. Moynahan disagreed and said that he had suggested information but not a warrant to be voted on.

Mr. (Jack) Murphy said that the fringe benefits could not be voted on separately from payroll because they were tied in – FICA was a mandate from the government.

Mr. Reed clarified that he was saying that the fringe benefits belong in the warrant article for each department because the payroll was.

Mr. Murphy said that it was associated with payroll. He added that depending on who the person was and how much he or she was earning and what the personal circumstances were affected the FICA and medical, and so forth, as a computation of that. He also said that he thought some of that was choice but he believed that

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most of it was pretty frozen and, so, they couldn't have the citizens voting for the payroll and against the fringe benefits – it wouldn't work that way.

Ms. Brandon clarified that each department was a "box" so the salary of one department and the fringe and the operating would be in that "box" so they would see the whole thing together.

Mr. Murphy said that they had that and they had that page and that could be as Mr. Moynahan suggested having in the Town Report.

Ms. Brandon clarified that they were asking if it could be in the warrant article – here was the Police Department budget with everything related to the that budget other than bonds.

Mr. Fernald said that the actual warrant article, itself, the vote was on the total. He added that it was broken out within the budget but the vote was on the total figure.

Mr. Reed clarified that they wanted the one figure to be the department warrant and did not want the total to be everyone's fringe because then they would have no control over it.

Mr. Pomerlau said that, if they took the fringe benefits and salaries before the department budget, then they have locked in a vote and what would happen, then, when they got down to the department budget and the Townspeople decided they would cut a position. He added that that would affect the bottom line on the fringe benefit article that was already passed. He said they couldn't control the fringe benefits until they locked in the salaries for each department. He added that it didn't make any sense to vote for them in one summary article without having gone over every single department's budget.

Mr. Fernald said that there was no reason he could see that they couldn't have it all in one separate article because they would be voting on the total of that and people would actually see what they were voting.

Mr. Moynahan said that they had been moving in that direction in the last couple of years. He added that there has been confusion about breaking it out and how that affected individual departments if someone needed more FICA or less in the bookkeeping from Ms. Spinney's standpoint. He said that, as they have been progressing, he thought the information could be broken out pretty accurately and could include it in the warrant articles with that.

The Board agreed to ask Mr. Blanchette to present the warrant articles in that fashion for each department.

Mr. Reed asked for clarification.

Mr. Moynahan said that fringe benefits, salaries, and operating costs would be in each warrant article for each department.

Mr. Fernald said that the Board added the \$18,000 back into the Cruiser Reserve Account; they cut the Land Bank from \$12,500 to \$8,000, adding that it would still be pretty close to six cents increase per thousand on the taxes.

**8:03 PM**      Business under Eliot Fire Department

This was regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan through the EMA and Public Works Department for grant monies and was a request to re-sign the adoption of the plan as requested by Maine EMA because the forms have changed.

Mr. Moynahan said that on one of the pages it indicated..."however, in the interest of time and securing the compliance we are required to have this

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document in by April 20<sup>th</sup>.” He asked if Mr. Muzeroll was going to be able to get a resolution by tomorrow for tomorrow.

Mr. Fernald said that the Board could do their part.

**8:07 PM** Mr. Murphy moved, second by Mr. Moynahan, to accept the Resolution of Adoption of the York County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**VOTE**

**4-0**

**Chair concurs**

Mr. Fernald said that the Board received some correspondence by several people in Town that the Board needed to review. He said that he would like to address Mr. Pomerlau's letter regarding MSAD #35. He said that this was discussed by the Board at a meeting he did not attend, that they had the ECSD Director present, and talked about the pros and cons of each area and asked if any decisions had been made. Mr. Fernald said that he saw that Mr. Pomerlau was concerned that the Board wasn't doing anything about it.

Mr. Dunkelberger said that they did have discussions with the ECSD Director and one of the concerns she had was that she would only be in there for one year. He said that he talked to Randy Stewart about giving him a notional starting point on what they might have on a \_\_\_\_\_ position and, based upon his thoughts he asked if they could enter into a 5-year agreement. He said that Randy Stewart thought that might be a little too long with the board but thought it might start with a 3-year agreement with options to add to it and the cost to the Town would be any additional cost incurred to the school for having ECSD over there.

Mr. Fernald asked, if there were costs by the Town for that how would those costs be determined, whereas, South Berwick people also paid for heat, electricity, etc. they paid for their part of the taxes on that building.

Mr. Dunkelberger said that, if the Town were ready to negotiate, he could not see how any additional energy utility costs might be of any significance because the building had to be heated and the lights were generally turned on. He added that there might be additional toilet paper, paper towels, incidental cleaning supplies, and that kind of stuff. He said that, if they wanted to really sit down and negotiate with MSAD #35, then they should do that, as he had been waiting for the Board to say that.

Mr. Fernald clarified that costs between MSAD #35 and the Fire Department seemed to be a wash so they needed to decide what were the advantages and disadvantages of one or the other.

Mr. Dunkelberger said that they have not heard back from the Fire Chief on his thoughts of ECSD staying at the Fire Department, adding that he knew that the Fire Chief had stressed some strenuous objections to the BC so he did not know what his stand was now and that was part of it.

Mr. Moynahan clarified on the letter, that Ms. Nash indicated who toured the facility and that he toured the facility, as well, and under her understanding from the meeting, #2 “MSAD 35 would charge only a nominal fee for the space...” they did not actually discuss any financials and left that meeting with some question marks so the letter was not completely accurate.

After some discussion, the Board agreed by consensus to bring the Fire Chief and MSAD #35 in for discussions.

Someone from the audience wanted to speak.

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Mr. Fernald apologized but said that the Board was going to move forward with tonight's business.

An audience member clarified that the Board was saying no public comment.

Mr. Fernald said yes.

The same public member said, "That's a democratic process." He asked why they were here.

Mr. Fernald said that the Board had heard everyone attending at least once.

The same member said that they had not been heard on what the Board just did.

Mr. Fernald asked if there was anything else to come before the Board.

**8:18 PM** Mr. Moynahan said that there was a letter from Mr. Reed on the sewer article and was also on the agenda.

This was a request from the BC, because of its' scope, to have this as a referendum vote at the November 2012 election and to make a change in the language specifying the process and details of the bond be the responsibility of the entire Board, not just the Chairman.

Mr. Fernald agreed that it should not be just the Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Reed said that he was concerned when, at the original Town Meeting regarding the TIF, it was stated that the TIF funds would be managed by the Administrative Assistant and he had pointed out at that time that it should probably be the Board who would be responsible for administering the TIF. He added that if they wanted to delegate some things to the Administrative Assistant, then that was fine, but it should be the whole Board's responsibility.

Mr. Murphy, addressing delaying until the November election, said that plans were already underway to have a public session on this TIF project this month – April 25<sup>th</sup> – and there would be a great deal of public information at that meeting as well as putting it online so that people could view what had taken place. He said that he thought it was premature to delay that and did not see any reason to not continue and not have it in June.

Mr. Dunkelberger said that he saw the April meeting as the first of what he thought should be several discussions and he did not think there was enough time now to allow people to educate themselves on the entire proposal, as it stood, to make the June Town Meeting. He agreed with Mr. Reed and said they should continue with the meetings all the way up to the November elections. He said that this was a serious enough issue that people should come into the voting booth as educated as they possibly could on the issues of this project.

Mr. Murphy said that he would say sufficiently educated, as being educated as much as they can they might know much more than they need to know to make a proper decision. He added that worried him was the constant delay and a loss of time involved to actually accomplish this job. He said that there may be a problem that arose and that would use up time, necessarily, and this loss from June to November was a loss of months, unnecessarily.

Mr. Moynahan said that he thought the basic premise of the whole TIF was really widely known, acknowledging the routes have changed a little bit, but thought that they would be tweaking the public's education. He added that they knew there was a bond, they knew there were costs associated, and they had directed everyone to live within those constraints. He said that what he thought they all might find collectively on the 25<sup>th</sup> is whether they needed more information

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sessions and what might be lacking in communications in the outreach they had to the public. He added that they didn't need to decide tonight because they didn't even have a warrant article and it might depend on how many attend – if 10 people showed up, then he thought they might owe it to the Town to have more time but, if it was wall-to-wall people and they were interested and they could get the updated education they needed, then he thought he would be comfortable having it in June. He reiterated that he would wait until that meeting to see what might be missing.

Ms. Place reminded everyone that they had had lots of discussion previous to this about the TIF and demonstrations by Underwood and others. She added that she thought there was enough information out there and enough information given out to the public to let them know. She said that, if they wanted to know, then they should know by now what was going on.

Mr. Murphy said that many might not be aware of the latest plan and the costs and so forth.

Mr. Moynahan agreed, saying that the Board was because they were at the meetings and they showed up at the presentations, but the public didn't necessarily show up to those. He added that he was hoping that, at this larger venue, that a lot of people who have missed these presentations would show up and become a little more educated.

Mr. Reed asked if there was a place where the information the Board has gotten was available here at Town Hall or online.

Mr. Murphy said it was going to be, that was part of the plan. He said that, at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, they would be generating a video that would be put online.

Mr. Moynahan said that the routes, the maps, the costs, etc. are all available at Town Hall, adding that trying to get things on the computer was one of the big goals from public input.

**8:25 PM** Mr. McClellan said that, to Mr. Moynahan's point, he was affected by the sewer; that he went to the TIF meetings and he was planning to go to the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, as well. He added that he has tried to stay as informed as possible but he did not think he was as informed as he would like to be.

Mr. Brandon said that his concern was that it be a balanced view – a balance of the pros and cons – so that people could see the whole picture, adding that he thought a lot of people, including himself, that found it hard to understand.

Ms. Shapleigh said that Underwood Engineers would be at that meeting. She said that it was a public meeting at the Regatta Room from 5 PM to 7 PM; there would be refreshments, a slide show, and a question/answer time, with at least one additional meeting after that.

Mr. Moynahan said that their contract specifies 6 or 8 public outreach meetings.

Mr. Murphy said that there was a question about the refreshments and the funding of them was a little bit uncertain as to whether TIF funds could be used for that or if the Selectmen would be willing to ante up a certain amount towards this - \$500 or so.

Mr. Fernald said absolutely not.

Ms. Place said they could not afford it.

Mr. Moynahan asked why it couldn't be a cash basis or no refreshments.

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Mr. Murphy said there was a cash bar.

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Mr. Moynahan said that he was getting a lot of email correspondence that was being sent to a lot of people and all that sort of thing and he really didn't like that; that he would rather have emails sent to Mr. Blanchette or put them in their box or something. He added that some of the information was important but when it was addressed to the whole Board it was almost as if they were conducting business – he was just not comfortable with that and he was looking for some clarification.

Mr. Fernald said that they had to watch out for emails because, if they started to discuss any details on the computer online with three or more Selectmen it became a public meeting and they couldn't do that. He added that the best thing to do was to have the information go to Mr. Blanchette, let him determine what it was, and have all that information put in all their boxes.

Mr. Moynahan said that there have been some things with people's opinions from boards or committees sent to the entire Board but it was in the computer and the Board didn't discuss it here and there were inputs about things the Board should be ... He added that Mr. Blanchette indicated that he puts one in their boxes but there were more that he was specific about and one he saw returned here; adding that it may not have been a big deal but they didn't want it to fall by the wayside. He said that there were two boards giving their opinions about the direction they thought this Board should be going in certain ways that this Board had asked for and they didn't get any other responses to discuss as a group.

Mr. Fernald said that, if it went to Mr. Blanchette, then it could be put on the agenda for a meeting and all the information could be put in their packets.

Mr. Moynahan agreed and clarified that they were missing some things and he wanted to make sure that they were, in fact, put in front of them so that people didn't think they were losing track of them or dismissing them.

Mr. Reed said that he was the generator of some of those emails. He said that he would like to know what the magic formula was in the address of the email to Mr. Blanchette and/or the Board so that he could make sure that Mr. Blanchette passed it on to the Board.

Mr. Fernald suggested just indicating in the heading "to the Board of Selectmen".

Mr. Reed said that some of the issue for him was that he sent things or talked with Mr. Blanchette, then nothing happens so, if he copied the Board or somehow got them in the loop, these stand a better chance of getting to the Board.

Mr. Fernald said that, if that happens, send him a direct email indicating that and he would follow up.

Mr. Reed, discussing the TIF, said that regardless of what timeframe the Board decides on he thought it was really important that the TIF be voted as a referendum in secret ballot at the polls either in June or November. He added that this was the biggest piece of money to come down the pike for the Town in a long time and they needed to have as many people chime in as possible.

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**Adjourn**

There was a motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

**VOTE**

**4-0**

**Chair concurs**

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**DATE**

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**Roberta Place, Secretary**

**DRAFT**