

Eliot Budget Committee
Minutes
February 26, 2013, 6:00 PM

Members Present: Rebecca Davis, William Jacques, John Reed, Ed Strong (Skype)
Members Absent: Robert Fisher, Jeff Pelkey

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM.

It was voted unanimously to table review and approval of minutes until the next regular meeting.

Warrant articles for the upcoming Special Town Meeting on March 23, 2013, were reviewed and discussed. A list of Budget Committee questions was compiled. The chairman will write them up and present them at the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen on February 28, 2013.

There was a very lengthy discussion on whether or not salaries should be moved to separate warrant articles at the Town Meeting in June. There are two questions that need to be addressed: (1) It had been explained by the Town's Administrative Assistant that only the bottom line amount of a warrant article is "cast in stone." Although line items within a warrant article may be reduced at Town Meeting, money can later be shifted from one line item to another after the article is approved. It is only a matter of "good faith" as opposed to legality which determines whether the intent of the vote will be maintained. (2) Since only the bottom line amount of a warrant article is legal, is it possible for a union contract to compel money from another line item be utilized to satisfy salary requirements? The chairman will pose this question to the Board of Selectmen.

Two questions were discussed with regard to the existing sewer in South Eliot and the proposed sewer expansion on Route 236. (1) Is it entirely the responsibility of existing sewer users to pay for all repairs and replacement costs of the existing sewer system, including pump stations? (2) Is it legal to use TIF revenue to upgrade/repair the existing sewer system? It is the contention that \$1.2 million in repairs is required by the existing sewer system and that the TIF should only be responsible for costs above that amount. The Town's attorney has been asked about this, and an answer should be forthcoming. The chairman will pose both questions to the Board of Selectmen.

It was agreed to schedule a special meeting of the Budget Committee for March 5, 2013, at which time municipal budget review will proceed.

Adjourn.

Submitted by Rebecca Davis, Secretary