

Present: Donna Murphy (Chair) Robert Fisher, Edward Strong (via SKYPE), Rosanne Adams, Phil Lytle, Cindy Saklad

Absent: Bill Jacques

Also present: 1 member of the public

Meeting opened at 6:30 PM.

BUSINESS

1. The Chair reported that she has not been able to get in touch with Bill Jacques to see if he is still living in town, and if not, to obtain from him a letter of resignation.
2. REVIEW OF THE 2015-16 TOWN BUDGET
 - a. The Chair began the meeting by noting that we have very little time left to submit our recommendations and that it would be helpful to know what members are looking for in the proposed budget.
 1. Edward Strong – looking at staying at or below the LD1 cap figure. The increases are unsustainable
 2. Cindy Saklad – to present a fair budget, taking into consideration added spending and decreases as recognized
 3. Phil Lytle – budget is coming out with over a 20% increase and he is looking at a 3-4% increase in the budget. A recent newspaper article mentions the increases and they are un-acceptable.
 - b. There was discussion on salary increases and the 3% COLA that is being given to non-bargaining employees to keep pace with the 3% being given union employees. There were two differing opinions concerning this:
 1. a) that not meeting the benefits given the union employees would affect the moral of those non-union employees and may lead to them forming their own union.
 2. b) That the COLA that Social Security recipients are receiving is 1.5% and that if a COLA is given then it should follow the federal standard.
 3. It was noted by Edward Strong that the 3% increase is also being given to Part Time Employees which is unheard of.
 4. The Chair questioned given a pay adjustment to the Child Care Director and the Program Co-ordinator of CSD and also giving a 3% increase.
 5. Cindy Saklad noted that she would need to see a wage comparison with other towns of the same size in order to determine whether these increases are out of line.
 6. Rosanne Adams questioned giving a 3% increase in pay on top of an increase to bring an employee up to a comparable pay rate (Child Care Director and the Program Co-ordinator of CSD)

7. Phil Lytle pointed out [concerning the pay scale] that Eliot has always avoided comparing themselves with York and Kittery because theirs [pay scale] is so far above other towns in this area.
 8. Comments were made on the Union Contracts and how badly they were negotiated for the town. Cindy Saklad said it would be interesting sometime to discuss what was objectionable in those contracts.
 9. MOTION made by Edward Strong, 2nd Robert Fisher for the Budget Committee to recommend to the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen that all non-union employees be held to a 1.5% increase in wages with the exception of the Town Clerk and Finance Director positions who should not receive any such increase. VOTE: 3-2. Chair concurs in the affirmative.
 10. Edward Strong noted that the increase for the Town Clerk and Finance Director positions were not included in the budgets for last year but were funded by “found” money.
- c. There was discussion on the \$1799 appropriation for a shredder. The Chair suggested that the reply from the Town Manager on this needs to be followed up on. Cindy Saklad noted that as far as she is aware Iron mounted either ships documents out to the town or shreds them at their facility and it is an expensive proposition to get out of the process once contracting with them. If the shredder is to be used in the future shredding of town documents, in house, then it would be a good investment. There was NO OBJECTION to the Chair following up on this issue and clarify the process and, again, why this amount is requested.
- d. PUBLIC WORKS budget:
1. The Chair noted in the comments of the Public Works Director that as part of the justification for needing another employee that 19 new miles of roads have been added since 1985. She would like to know what roads these are. There was NO OBJECTION to having the Chair ask for this information.
 - I. It was AGREED that the Chair will ask for a clarification on the proposed new Public Works position and just what that person’s duties will be.
 - II. Phil Lytle suggested asking what the cost comparison would be to use a part time person rather than full time. There was NO OBJECTION to having the Chair ask.
 - III. Edward Strong suggested that it was a lot cheaper to hire other firms to do jobs [than to create new positions]
 - IV. There was CONCENSUS to ask the following questions/clarifications about the new position:
 - a) What will the new person’s rate of pay be?
 - b) Operator II has retired and yet his retiring rate of pay appears to be included in the budgeted amounts. Why is this? Shouldn’t an entry level rate of pay be budgeted for?

- c) The retiring rate of pay for Phil Lytle appears to be included in the budget amounts? Shouldn't an "entry level" rate of pay be budgeted for/
- d) What is the pay scale for DPW union employee positions?
- e) Rosanne Adams questioned the CIP costs re: the gazebo at Hammond Park. It was her understanding that the money for this were raised by the Garden Club and hence shouldn't they be responsible for the maintenance? Did the town agree to take responsibility for this?
- f) Robert Fisher questioned the need for more money in budget for the care of cemeteries when we have people who have been caring for cemeteries for many years. Rosanne Adams explained that the Eliot Historical Society has been helping to care of cemeteries and that the towns are mandated by State Statute to care for these cemeteries but they can do it in many ways including partnering with other groups and organizations which lowers the cost to the town.

2. STORMWATER BUDGET:

- I. Phil Lytle questioned the budget and who is mandating the work and what the work is that is being done with reference to the Park Street project. The Chair explained that the storm water work is mandated but the public access component is not. It was requested that the amounts for these two projects be separated out and that they have been.
- II. The Chair questioned the figures in the budget and if they were being used strictly for the mandated portion. She offered to look at this budget further.

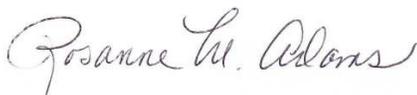
3. TOWN COMMITTEES:

- I. There was CONSENSUS that organizations/institutions that are not town committees should not be included under this heading and should be voted on either as a separate line item or grouped as part of a separate article. These include Eliot Historical Society, Eliot Festival Day, Senior Citizens, William Fogg Library, all of which are privately run entities with no representation or oversight of the town.
- II. The Chair asked for a more detailed expense report for the William Fogg Library and for an income summary report from the Eliot Historical Society. There was NO OBJECTION to having the Chair ask for these.

4. Next Meetings: 3/10/15 – Joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen; 3/16/15

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 upon the MOTION of Robert Fisher, 2nd Edward Strong. VOTE: 5-0

Respectfully Submitted by



Rosanne Adams, Recording Sec.

Date Approved: March 16, 2015