

Meeting of the Eliot Budget Committee  
March 13, 2012

Roll Call

Present: John Reed, Noah Lemire, Rebecca Davis, Bill Jacques

Absent: Ed Strong, Ron Cooper, Jeff Pelkey

9 members of the public present

Call to Order at 1830

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of January 19 by Rebecca Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Jacques, 3-0 PASSED

Motion to approve minutes of February 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Jacques, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Noah Lemire, 3-0 PASSED

- Sewer rates are being raised to offset costs
  - More of a true cost reflection
  - 3 components go into the rate
  - approximately 650 users
  - working to address issues with storm water getting into system
- Discussion over what happened to money from 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary account
  - Merchandise sales below projections
- Discussion of spreadsheet provided by John
  - details last six years of figures
- town likes to pay as we go using reserve accounts
- Committee and public express desire for detailed information regarding CSD enterprise account
  - Would like to see full list of income/spending for department
  - Would like to know how many households are served by the CSD
  - Need to submit request for info to Judy Hatch who does the books for the enterprise account
  - Was previously handled by a recreation committee
- BC would like to see the original letter that was rejected by the BOS from the auditor
- Question from Donna Murphy, asking with the PD Humvee being town property, are funds required to support it not public information? Also, do department heads have the authority to accept things like that?
  - Authority rests with the BOS, granted by the people at each town meeting
- Would like to see numbers on individual; health insurance costs
  - Potentially a privacy issue?
  - Should be public information
- Existing police contract remains in place until negotiations complete
- Lengthy discussion on the idea of a flat funded budget
- Perhaps organize a public hearing to tell the BOS what the people want

- Public feels like BOS is slowly starting to listen
- Must have people armed with knowledge to make informed decisions
- May want to encourage a no vote on overriding LD1
- Discussion about the desire to have more information about the actual money spent vs. budget appropriations
- Uphill battle against apathy
- BC should put as much info on the website as possible

- BC will continue to have workshops to discuss the budget
- Have dept heads to answer questions as needed
- review what would be hurt by a flat budget
  - need to know where the pain would be
- Discussed town employees paying into their retirement
- We should continue to look into regionalization and sharing of services

Next meeting will be determined

Adjourn at 9:00 p.m.