

Present: Donna Murphy (Chair), Robert Fisher, Rosanne Adams, Phil Lytle, Cindy Saklad and 2 members of the public

Absent: Bill Jacques, Edward Strong (out of town)

Meeting opened at 6:35 PM.

#### BUSINESS

1. MOTION by Robert Fisher, 2<sup>nd</sup> Phil Lytle to approve the MINUTES of March 3, 2015 as written. VOTE: 4-0, Chair concurs.
2. MOTION by Robert Fisher, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cindy Saklad to approve the MINUTES of March 9, 2015 as written. VOTE: 4-0, Chair concurs.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT:
  - a. Robert Pomerleau expressed that it is the Budget Committee's job to look out for the citizens; to examine the budget and its integrity and correctness against the citizen's ability to pay. He urged the Committee to stay focused on the budget.
4. BUDGET COMMITTEE'S TOWN REPORT LETTER: The Chair noted that she is working on the letter and hopes to have it finalized and out for member's review by the Thursday meeting (19<sup>th</sup>) so it can be given to the Town Manager by Friday.
5. CONTINUED REVIEW OF THE BUDGET: The following questions were proposed by members as follow up to the information presented by the Town Manager and Department heads -
  - a. Community Service Department: The OASDI and Medicare numbers for the Community Service Department appear to be high for the one salary that is listed. These need to be looked at again. If they are high because they represent all the employees in the department then that needs to be changed so that if the salaries are paid for out of the Enterprise Fund then these are also. [Cindy]
  - b. Public Safety: Has it been determined that those who are part time are subject to FICA, etc? [Cindy]
  - c. Public Health Officer:
    - i. Is there no FICA taken out for this position? [Cindy]
    - ii. What is the amount of the stipend and for what is the money being spent? [Donna]
  - d. Harbormaster:
    - i. It was understood when appointing this position that the harbormaster would be supplying his/her own boat. Why are we now paying for a lease? [Robert]
    - ii. Why the significant increase in the stipend for the harbormaster, boat lease, etc? [Donna]
  - e. Town Committees: It was noted that there are 5 of the listed that are not Town Committees but are run independently of the town – Eliot Historical Society, William Fogg Library, Eliot Festival Day,

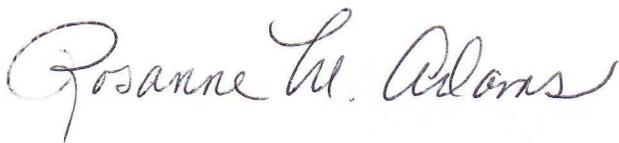
Memorial Day, and Senior Citizens. The Budget Committee requests a more detailed breakdown of the amounts raised and expenses. [Donna]

- f. Planning Board: The Assistant Planner used to be a 32 hour position. When did it change to paying this position overtime? [Donna]
- g. Animal Control Officer: Is a micro-chip scanner required? It is understood that animals are taken to the shelter in Kittery where they have this device. [Donna]
- h. Fire Department:
  - i. Why aren't the medical exams being charged to insurance? [Donna]
  - ii. Request clarification on need for 6 desktops and 2 laptops [Donna]
- i. Police: Question why the vacant position is being funded at the highest pay level? [Donna]
  - i. Would like to see that the chief's salary and benefits be listed by showing only what we pay for rather than the full amount as it is now listed in the budget. Would be more transparent. If it was explained in the warrant article what the actual pay out for Eliot is then it wouldn't be an issue. [Cindy]
- j. Department of Public Works:
  - i. Question the request for \$6000 for cemeteries without having a plan as to what the monies will be used for Rosanne]
  - ii. Recently money to repair/replace equipment was taken from the snow account. The snow account should not be used for repair/maintenance. These should come from the repair/maintenance line item. [Phil]
  - iii. Question buying a new wing for plowing now that winter is over. The part could have been shipped in and our mechanics install it. [Robert]
  - iv. Robert Pomerleau spoke to the request of the DPW to hire a full time person - The Public Works Director has expanded his duties to include storm water and sewer superintendent and there is no doubt that he needs to spend less time out doing the work and more time supervising. Without having kept track of just what hours he is spending on each task so that we could see just where a new person would take up that slack it is difficult to answer the question as to whether a full time person is really required or could it be covered by a part-time person? The rationale given for a full time person is very weak.
- k. General Questions:
  - i. Why for the vacant positions the amounts of salaries, benefits, and deductions have been left in the budget to be calculated at the highest rates?
- l. Cindy Saklad excused herself from the meeting at 7:55pm.

- m. Transfer Station: Question as to the travel and training – is this for training other than what the DPW director was tasked to do? Request a breakdown of what the \$25,000 is for [Donna]
- n. Storm water: Question as to what is actually mandated – understood that the “water access improvement” is not. [Robert] The Chair said she has material from the presentation and would look into it.
- o. Debt Service: The Chair noted that the police bond and the pump station bond are on one warrant article without any explanation. There was discussion and concern expressed that the citizens need to understand the choices that were proposed for the pump station bond and not just the one chosen by the selectmen to be voted on. The vote for the bonding needs to be in a separate warrant article on a referendum.
- p. Reserve Accounts: Need to have the current balances.
- q. Social Services: Question as to how the determination was made by the Town Manager to fund or to not fund these?
  - i. There was discussion concerning criteria and how to determine which outside agencies should be funded. Robert Pomerleau suggested that an amount be determined and then split equally among them. Rosanne suggested that, in the off season, the Budget Committee come up with some criteria for making these decisions in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm upon the MOTION of Robert Fisher, 2<sup>nd</sup> Phil Lytle. VOTE: 3-0. Chair concurs.

Respectfully Submitted by



Rosanne Adams, Recording Sec.

Date Approved: March 30, 2015