

ELIOT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING May 12, 2015

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

Meeting opened at 6:30 PM.

BUSINESS

1. MOTION to by Edward Strong, 2nd Phil Lytle to accept the Minutes of April 14, 2015, as presented. VOTE: 4-0. Chair Concurs. Cindy abstained as she was not at the meeting.
2. Discussion of handout for the June Town Meeting:
 - a. Chair suggested it be made available at the Election on Tuesday the 9th and at the Town Meeting on Saturday the 13th. There was NO OBJECTION. The Chair will check with the Town Clerk about doing this, as it will need to be reviewed for bias.
 - b. Cindy Saklad suggested also placing the handout on the table at the Town Hall. There was NO OBJECTION. The Chair will check with the Town Clerk about doing this.
 - c. The format and information to be contained in the handout was discussed. It was suggested that perhaps we could begin with the Committee's letter and give each article and the reasoning behind our recommendation using the information in the April 14th committee minutes but changing the format. There was NO OBJECTION to using the Committee's letter and the information in the minutes.
 - d. Rosanne Adams spoke to the 3% proposed increase and the need to further explain our reasoning for reducing it. Cindy Saklad asked if the term "COLA" being used was the only objection to it? Rosanne replied "No". That it is more about what is fair and equitable. The federal COLA is 1.5% and that should have been the figure used. It keeps pace with what citizen's receive.
 - i. The suggestion was made that our votes for/against the 3% increase should be included in the letter so as to inform the citizens. Several members spoke against this noting that, as individuals, we can always speak up at the Town Meeting but that the recommendations come from the final vote of the committee. The Chair also noted that we would then have to show the vote on all the other articles and no one is recommending that we do that.
 - e. Edward Strong made a MOTION, 2nd Robert Fisher that the handout be given out on Election Day and include our town book letter and recommendations (w/explanation). VOTE: 4-1. Chair concurs.
3. Other Business
 - a. Cindy Saklad asked about the process at Town Meeting and who stands to present the recommendations of the Budget Committee? The Chair mentioned that in the past it has been the job of the Chair to make the motion(s) to amend. Rosanne suggested that we also need to be prepared to make another amendment motion should our first fail – in order to have consideration on another aspect of our recommendation should the total recommendation fail. The Chair said she could do this.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm upon the MOTION of Robert Fisher, 2nd Edward Strong. VOTE: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

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Dan W

Rosanne Adams, Recording Sec.

Donna Murphy, Chair

Date Approved: 08/11/2015