

**Amended Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2012**

Members Present – Rebecca Davis, Ed Strong, Jeff Pelkey, Bob Fisher, Roland Fernald and Bill Jacques.

Also present : twelve members of concerned Eliot citizens and Selectman Grant Hirst.

Meeting called to order at 6:15 in the meeting room.

Jeff Pelkey discussed the concept of “Zero Based Budgets.” He stated ZBB was a term popular in the 1970s and often misunderstood He used a nearby community as an example. Jeff noted the ZBB “Has to have the backing of the community and is quite intricate and time consuming. It requires that each and every component in the budget, its value to the community and available alternatives. Jeff also noted “Eliot’s budget is small compared to many communities.” He also noted Zero Based Budgets really helps in areas not using regionalization.

Ed Strong presented an extensively researched, unified budget format used in a nearby community. Copies of the suggested format were provided to each present member for comment.

At the next meeting, Strong and Pelkey will present an annotated budget format to be used by all departments. Strong’s example shows benefits broken out as a total for each department. Strong stated “an analysis of the past three budget years is needed, the municipal budget has doubled in the past 12 years.”

Bob Fisher stressed the need for all department heads to prepare, whenever possible, budgets in a timely manner so print deadlines can be met. Chairwoman Davis reported John Reed is working on a timeline schedule working backwards from the town clerk’s deadline for printing. This will be presented and discussed at the next meeting August 14, 2012.

Fernald noted the positive progress that’s been made with budgeting And the continuing need to focus on the positive and “not to be critical all the time.”

Davis and Fernald will continue to coordinate questions as yet to be answered on the 236 TIF. The Chair recognized several questions and comments from the present audience. Fisher will develop a list of possible sources on this matter.

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Committee members recognized the need for more than one meeting a month. It was agreed to meet at least twice a month at 6 p.m. in the large meeting room. The next meeting will be held August 14 at 6 p.m.

The July 24 meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

William Jacques, recording secretary