

MINUTES ELIOT BUDGET COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 18, 2012

PRESENT: Robert Fisher, Ed Strong, Jeff Pelkey, Roland Fernald, Rebecca Davis

ABSENT: John Reed, Bill Jacques

Meeting opened at 6:05PM

BUSINESS

1. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS -

- A) It was noted that salaries and benefits have yet to be determined for department budgets in light of the unionization of Town Employees and the present negotiation of the police union contract. Will have to wait to see what impact it will have on the overall budgets.
- B) The Chair reported that a letter was received from member of the public re: unionization issue. She expressed concern that as the Budget Committee attempts to keep the public informed that the committee be careful not to facilitate ill feelings in the community.
- C) BOS last week were given a handout from Rebecca Davis as a private citizen, "Union Contracts -Questions and Concerns". Copies were handed it out to BC members.
- D) Public Works Budget will be the discussion on January 3rd at a joint meeting w/ the BOS.
- E) Next scheduled meeting of Budget Committee is January 8th. At next meeting will look at the budgets and line items to see if there is any further information needed that committee members feel is needed.
- F) Department budgets and questions
 - 1) It was noted that there is a lack of detail in the fire department budget. The budget is up 3%. There are figures (costs) but no explanation as to what the amount is based on. For example phone systems - who are the carrier, what is the cost of plan? Vehicle tires - how many? Having the information there when discussing the budgets with the department heads would expedite the process.

- 2) Public Works Budget - Noted that benefits ARE listed in the budget submitted. The budget is up \$600,000 higher than last year. They are looking to add an operator I, Step 1 with a salary of \$31,844.80/year. The budgetary Increase would total \$50,368.71. The following questions were raised by committee members - What is the difference between "regular" overtime and "special" overtime?; Is the new employee request included in the budget figures? Mowing has been added back into the budget, why and what is this for?

CONCENSUS - Chair will write letter to the selectmen with copy to department heads and include request for greater detail in department line items. Chair will put together a letter for committee review.

MOTION by Fisher and 2nd by Stong that the Budget Committee recommends that budgets this year result in "no increase in the mill rate". VOTE 4-0, Chair Concur. AGREED to add this to the letter re: greater detail for departments' line items.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Adams

Resident Comments on Eliot Website
December 12, 2012

Comment: I don't think employee's paid by tax dollars should be allowed to unionize. They need to be accountable to the people and when you have unions in the way of letting employee's go to save tax dollars then you have a problem. I'm sad to say this but if there is no other choice then they should all be replaced. With a true unemployment number of around 17% I think you could find plenty of qualified applicants. I would like my comments to be forwarded to the budget committee and the overseers of the poor. Thank You, Would you like to be contacted? (Check one box only):

Yes, Email Me

Yes, Call Me

I will add your comments to the agenda for the next Budget Committee meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2012, at 6:00 pm. It will be video streamed on the town web site.

The Budget Committee submitted a formal request to the Board of Selectman on December 13, 2012, for Robert Fisher to be on the negotiating team with the new unions (see attached).

We appreciate hearing from residents.

Thank You Rebecca,

I was able to speak with Mike Moynahan a few days ago. I would have written a one or two page letter explaining my thoughts in better detail, but I couldn't find an email directory on the website. I saw the small "feedback box" on the website, and figured i would have to be blunt and get right to my points as the space was limited. While i'm not sure how departments may or may not communicate, you most certainly have my permission to get my feedback from Mike Moynahan.