

Town of Eliot

Budget Committee Meeting

October 8, 2019

Budget Committee Members: Donna Murphy (Chair), Jim Tessier (Vice Chair), Brad Hughes, and Janie Wang. Ed Strong and Denny Lentz out of Town.

Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order @ 6:00 pm by the Chair (video streaming was used).

Public Comment:

- No members of the public present.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion by Jim Tessier, second by Janie Wang to approve the September 10, 2019 minutes. Vote 4-0,

CIP

- Discussed alternate process of funding CIP. Janie stated that it was hard to show example using fake numbers. Discussed focusing and reviewing Department of Public Works first and then other departments. The Committee recommended asking Jordan Miles, Treasurer, if he was interested doing something together with real numbers. Jim stated he understands and agrees with Janie's concept of replacing items that were breaking down and replacing sooner rather than spending money on repairs that could be more costly. It was noted that the former DPW Director spent more money on repairing the pickup truck than the Town paid for it. Recommended asking the Town Manager and the Department Heads to look at the bigger equipment and assess if it really going to last the estimated amount of time. Should it be replaced sooner and backload expenses rather than frontloading expenses. Something that is fairly new does not need to be funded immediately. Before spending time creating a spreadsheet we will need people to buy in to the concept. Suggestion to replace older equipment and save on repairs. What approach should be taken? Janie stated that buy in is needed from the Town Manager, the Treasurer, and the Department Heads. Jim stated that last year the Committee requested that the Town Manager to lay out a more detailed schedule. There was a recent purchase for a plow. Discussion was about the total in the CIP not under each item. Suggested funding by priority not straight line. Brad suggested a memo stating, this is the problem as we see it and we would like to propose a resolution, and we would like to discuss it further. Make a list of the benefits. Questioned if it could be done with DPW this budget season. Chair will invite Town Manager and Treasurer to a meeting to discuss.

Goals and Objectives for the 2020/2021 fiscal year

- Reviewed calendar. January 8, 2019 and January 22, 2019 at 5:00 for meetings. Submit a formal request for budget book prior to Christmas. Jim updated the memo he drafted on requested information to be in the budget book. Jim shared the memo from the State. Goals and Objectives are to not exceed LD1, not increase the MIL rate in relation to the municipal budget while being mindful of ensuring that Town services and CIP are adequately funded, and continue improvements to the CIP program. Motion by Jim Tessier, second by Brad Hughes to send the letter to the Town Manager. Vote 4-0.

Budget Committee member reports/comments

- Brad completed the FOAA training and submitted the signed form to the Town Manager.

Adjournment

- Motion by Brad Hughes, second by Jim Tessier to adjourn. Vote 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Murphy, Chair

Dennis F. Lentz, Secretary

Date Approved: November 12, 2019