

# **Eliot Budget Committee Meeting**

**September 21, 2016 Meeting**

**Members present:** Donna Murphy (Chair), Brad Hughes (Vice Chair) participated via Skype, Steve Furbish, Noah Lemire, Ed Strong, Jim Tessier. Denny Lentz was not present (out of the country).

## **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order @ 7:30 PM by the Chair (Video streaming for details was used)

## **Approval of Minutes**

No minutes.

## **Public Comment**

No members of the public present.

## **Discussion and vote on the sewer funding referendum as approved by the Select Board.**

Jim: The numbers on the financials do not add up. The cost estimates in the referendum were for a 1.7 million bond and the documents provided by the Town Manager were for a 1.5 million dollar bond. Ed stated it was sent out without the updated calculations. Ed stated there were two issues to address tonight. Whether or not we were going to support the 1.7 bond issue to be paid for by sewer users and the other is the question on the debt schedule which can be straightened out. Brad agreed that the issue tonight is whether we are support the Select Board on the 1.7million dollars to be paid for by the sewer users. Motion by Brad Hughes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Strong that the Budget Committee votes to support the bond to be paid for by the sewer users. Discussion: Jim stated he doesn't disagree with the issue whether we support or not support the bond issue. Jim is frustrated by the very poor preparation by the Town Manager. Ed agreed. Jim stated once we take a vote on this issue we are representing to the town residents that we support that position but we are supporting that position without the adequate facts. Jim stated that he feels the Town Manager should get in the habit of making sure he is providing accurate reliable information. Ed stated that to meet the deadline, the debt service figures can be straightened out. Numbers provided were reviewed. Noah agreed with Brad that it doesn't make a whole lot of difference with the amount we borrow but it should be fixed. Jim stated that it doesn't affect how much is borrowed but the town residents should know the fees. The Town Manager should justify the fees. The motion was restated.

Motion by Brad Hughes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Strong. Vote: 6-0

Consensus by the Committee for the Chair to speak at the Select Board meeting to request the correct figures.

## **Budget Committee member reports/comments**

No members had any further business.

## **Adjournment at 7:00 pm**

Motion by Jim Tessier, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Strong. Vote: 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Date Approved: 10/11/2016

*Donna Murphy*, Chair