

# Town of Eliot

## Budget Committee Meeting

### May 8, 2018 Meeting

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**Budget Committee Members:** Donna Murphy (Chair), Jim Tessier (Vice-Chair), Dennis Lentz (Secretary), Steve Furbish, Noah Lemire, Ed Strong, Janie Wang.

**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**

- March 6, 2018 minutes. Motion by Jim Tessier, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Noah Lemire to approve as amended. Vote 7-0 in the affirmative.
- April 10, 2018 minutes. Motion by Jim Tessier, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Noah Lemire to approve as amended. Vote 7-0 in the affirmative.

**Discussion on scheduled meeting between the Budget Committee subcommittee and William Fogg Library Trustees on May 9<sup>th</sup> regarding their budget and long-term planning.**

- Jim handed out a paper on his notes. Janie envisioned it more as a question session. Jim wants to be perceived as wanting to help rather than telling them what to do. Janie wants to be perceived as listening. How do we introduce ourselves to them? Noah likes the first two points and chop the rest. Discussed how to create a good relationship. Don't want to be perceived that we are coming in with all the solutions. What is the purpose of the meeting? Gathering information vs. how can we help? Would like to be more collaborative. What would you like us to know so that we can bring it back to the Committee to make a more informed decision. Denny stated he spent ten years on their fundraising committee. There was a reluctance to share information. What is there long-term goal. There was discussion at the fundraiser about wanting the Town to take over and make the employees Town employees. Is this a long-term goal or just talk? The Budget Committee would like to build a better relationship with the Library. Jim stated our objective is to have them share how we can have a better relationship so we can better understand the needs. Noah stated combining one and two into one statement. Make an opening statement to start the discussion. Are they willing to talk to us? Denny asked if it was any of our business on how they are going to fund. Jim felt it was. Denny stated that they had a strong Friends of the Library and there may be a butting of heads. If their plans are they want to expand the Library and they have a limited amount from the Trust Fund is the plan to ask the Town for more money. Denny stated maybe talk about their operational cost. Jim was surprised at how low the salaries were. There are two full-time. They wanted to increase salaries. Jim does not want to tell them how to do their job. Janie would like to ask at the end, can we talk

about this again sometime. Purpose is not to tell them. We are here to listen. Hopefully it is a good conversation. Is there any benefit to the Library to have more conversations? Maybe they would want to meet once per year. Maybe we could have this conversation earlier in the process. Jim stated the key will be how the first conversations come across. We would like to see more collaborative process and a better exchange of information. Noah stated that he wonders how he would feel if he were them. If it is not our job to question the Police. Why is it our job to do this to the Library? Ed stated that the Police are under the Town Manager. Denny stated there were people who left the committee because they were so closed. Denny stated it was the Trustees. Denny stated that we should ask what type of relationship do they want to have? Steve stated last year we asked for the Trust and we didn't get anything. Noah had to research to get the entire Trust. Noah stated that the Library is very different from other outside agencies. Jim agreed. Noah stated that he didn't feel we should ask about ten-year plans. Ed hasn't seen any cost analyst about how to maintain an expansion. Noah stated you need to establish a relationship first. These questions are not going to happen tomorrow night. They may say they don't want to establish a relationship. Janie agrees with Ed and Steve there is a level of accountability. Jim stated if he had a better understanding of their process it would make it easier to support their needs. Janie would like to know about every department. We get the 10,000-foot view and not the ground level. Jim stated the Committee is getting the basic understanding and now we can get into what Janie is speaking about. Denny stated what kind of relationship do we want to have with them. This is our question.

#### **Discussion on requesting a meeting with the Town Manager to review the budget process.**

- The Committee discussed and will ask the Town Manager when the best time would be to schedule a wrap up meeting to discuss the budget process, what worked well and where we could improve.

#### **Comments on Expense and Revenue Summary reports and Current Account Status.**

- No comments.

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

- Jim had two things the first on recycling. Last fall they implemented National Sword (recycling import restrictions with China). This year until it gets sorted out we will see significantly decreased prices. The other thing, the salt expense went up tremendously. Do we want to ask what the number was? Jim thought he said he filled up the shed. Denny thought it was 380 something and he said he had a third left. Janie read the numbers from the expense report. Does the Budget Committee want to know the final salt expense and the final expense of the snow account? Donna stated that this amount will be on the expense report that will be received in July. Donna shared the information regarding the school budget. Jim stated the bottom line is that they didn't increase the budget but they lost money from the State. We charge Rollinsford a little over \$10,000 and our students are charged about \$14,000.

#### **Adjournment:**

- Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Noah Lemire, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Tessier. Vote 5/0 to adjourn. Adjourned at 7:50.

**Next meeting date:**

Respectfully submitted,

*Donna Murphy, Chair*

Date Approved: July 10, 2018

*Dennis F. Lentz, Secretary*