

# Town of Eliot

## Budget Committee Meeting

### March 12, 2019

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**Budget Committee Members:** Donna Murphy (Chair), Jim Tessier (Vice-Chair), Dennis Lentz (Secretary), Brad Hughes, and Ed Strong (via Skype). Janie Wang (excused) and Noah Lemire (excused due to work)

**Call to Order:**

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

**Public Comment:**

- One member of the public present.

**Motion to reconsider Administration by Donna Murphy, second by Brad Hughes**

- Jim stated at meeting last night the Town Manager made a case he wanted to keep in the budget due to a lot of people asking about Christmas decorations @ town hall. Vote 4-1 to reconsider. Motion to approve Administration at \$1,188,957 by Donna Murphy, second by Ed Strong. Vote 4-1 to approve.

**Approval of Minutes**

- No minutes

**Citizen's Option Meeting**

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**Discussion on charge to sewer user for percentage of Town Manager's, DPW Director's, and DPW administrative assistant's wages.**

- Brad and Jim stated that we need to go with the percentage they have now. Jim doesn't have anything else to support changes but we did bring it to their attention. Jim stated with the pump station done it should be lower but it isn't. Brad stated it could be discussed at the Citizen's Option or next year. Brad will provide spreadsheets with the amounts for each department. Jim spoke about the cable tv. The Select Board took the amount out. The amount now is \$30,028. Jim made a motion to reconsider Boards and Committees, second by Ed Strong. 5-0 to reconsider. Jim made a motion to approve Boards and Committees for \$30,028, second by Denny Lentz. Vote 5-0 to approve. Jim stated that the Select Board agreed with the Budget Committee on the cruiser reserve with taking out \$5,000 for a total of \$34,930, taking out \$7,500 for bucket truck and agreed with planning for the future but there were no details. They agreed with the cemetery software, kept the Land Use Secretary position at full-time. Jim stated at the end of the meeting the Budget Committee got a thank you for the time and effort put in

on the budget and there was not one negative comment about the Budget Committee from the Select Board chair. Discussion on lack of questions from Select Board to the Budget Committee. They acknowledged they had not spent as much time as the Budget Committee on the budget. The Budget Committee is \$59,730 under LD1. The Select Board is \$6,783 under LD1. Discussed handout for Citizen's Option meeting. Try to keep it to one page or at least one paper, two sides.

- Discussed that Jim was going to create a draft of the allocation of DPW wages and give it to the Town Manager for approval. Motion by Donna Murphy, second by Brad to approve Jim to send draft to the Town Manager for approval. Vote 5-0 to approve. Jim will change the date on the top from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Discussion on Household Hazardous Waste and Discussion on 1.3% increase in wages for non-union employees in addition to 1.5% step raises.**

- The Select Board has not voted on these. Jim stated they discussed it and agreed to one year. The Town Manager did not ask the Solid Waste Committee about the change in the Household Hazardous Waste. The change only came to light in the review of the budget. The Town Manager did not get approval from the Select Board to make a policy change.

**Budget Committee member reports and comments**

- None

**Adjournment**

- Motion by Ed Strong, second by Brad Hughes to adjourn. Vote 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

*Donna Murphy*, Chair

Date Approved: May 14, 2019

*Dennis F. Lentz*, Secretary