

SELECT BOARD MEETING
September 14, 2023 5:30PM
Town Hall/Hybrid

Quorum noted

5:30 PM: Meeting called to order by Vice Chairperson Widi.

Roll Call: Mr. Widi, Ms. Dow, Mr. Shapleigh, and Mr. Trott.

Absent: Mr. Donhauser (excused).

A. Pledge of Allegiance recited

B. Public Comment:

5:33 PM Ms. (Rosanne) Adams, Eliot Historical Society (EHS), said that everyone here are members of the EHS and I'm actually going to have the President Tracy Graffam-Dickson. She gave the letter and pictures to the SB.

Ms. Dickson read the letter. "The EHS has been made aware that the Eliot Highway Department has in their possession two of what are called 'silent policemen'. They were used in the town during the time of the electric trolley and train service. They were believed to have been located at what is now known as the junctions of Dover Road and Depot Road and predate the time of overhead traffic lights. We believe that Steve Robinson, the late Highway Commissioner, was aware of these items being important historical artifacts for our community, as he had mentioned to one of our members that there existed important items that should be given to the Historical Society for preservation. Trolley service ended in the Eliot/South Berwick area in March 1923. Phil Morse of the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, through his research, believes these 'Silent Policemen' would have most likely been put in place here in Eliot around the time the trolley service was discontinued, or just before. Train service continued until 1951. The tracks were then taken up and Route 236 (Harold L. Dow Highway) built upon the railway bed. The Historical Society feels that it is very important that these historical artifacts be preserved. We would like to see one of these 'Silent Policemen' be kept and preserved in our town as a historical marker of our history where train travel was an important means of transportation and harkens back to the era of the electric trolley, as well. It is a nostalgic artifact that not many communities have and that our youth and visitors could connect with. Someone had the foresight to put them away for safekeeping when they could just as easily have taken them home or put them in the dump. Someone knew they were an important piece of our history. We have the opportunity to preserve them here in the town they were used. They are a key piece of our past and their historical value far exceeds any monetary value that could be derived from their sale. The EHS is willing to take on the responsibility to work with the town and to identify a suitable location that would provide a meaningful connection to our

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town's history. In addition, on behalf of the Town and Historical Society, we would like to see the 2nd of the two to be loaned to the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, Maine, where it can be enjoyed by the many visitors who come from all over the world to visit this one-of-a-kind Maine museum. Lastly, the EHS would like to recommend that, in the future, artifacts such as these that have a direct connection to our town be brought forward to the EHS for assessment and preservation planning. Our hope is to reduce the risk of losing important items that help to tell our story of our past while connecting our community for generations to come." Thank you for your consideration.

5:36 PM Mr. Widi said that I think they're pretty cool. Do you have any locations you've been thinking about where you would want to put one.

Ms. Adams said that we haven't decided because we wanted to work with the Town.

Ms. (Jan) Cerabona said that it might be just to have it at Depot Road by the school where the trolley stations were, which would be good for all the kids to be aware of.

There was discussion around preserving them while exposing them to the elements if located outside.

Ms. Adams said that we might need to speak with the Seashore Trolley Museum, as they might have some ideas of how to do that. The pictures will show you one that is standing, put in a place in Wilton, Maine. So, they aren't necessarily inside. So there must be a way to preserve them.

Mr. Sullivan said that, at the present time, we've moved them back upstairs to make sure they are protected. This is part of a program where we have a lot of things we're cleaning out. There were some things you voted on a few weeks ago of a number of items we were putting up for sale. There are rules that govern that. Yes, the Seashore Trolley Museum, if the SB chose to, you could put them on loan or you could even give it to them because they are a non-profit. At this time, there is no intent to try to sell them. One is operable. They work off of kerosene. The other one is not operable. But they are really cool. There are hand-written instructions inside of the panel. Very nice.

5:38 PM Mr. Widi said that I would be in favor of loaning one out. And, if we find a suitable location, I would be in favor of putting one out somewhere. The reason is, the history part is cool but I also think they're just a cool piece that would add a little more character to Eliot. Right now, Eliot is weed shops and rock yards and

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adding something with a little more character would be interesting, I think, if we could do it on an affordable budget.

Mr. Trott said that we had multiple trolley stations. We had one at Rosemary Hill, one at Mast Cove and Main Street, Farmer Road connection. Pilings still stand and the tracks are still here. So, there's plenty of consideration in it. It was a hobby of mine when I was a kid and then I found I couldn't just drive trains.

5:40 PM Ms. Cerabona said that, as you are aware, the kids all do the 'Hike Through History' and have for many years, doing a cycle every three years. Being near where your school is and having the trolley track right there, it sort of adds to their learning about the history of our area.

Mr. Trott said that I like the idea of the school. It doesn't have traffic going 50 mph. We also had those tracks that came through Town, with Farmers Road and everything else, yet, we have nothing in our Town of the historical aspect of this Town. I grew up in the most historical part of Eliot and, yet, there's nothing but rocks that point it out. Unless you stop and look at what that rock says you would never know that the fastest clipper ship in the world was built at Dead Duck. I love the Seacoast Trolley but I would love to see more historical stuff, more monument-type things. We have a new Town Hall coming up. We need to show off our history. Maybe we find a spot for both of them. It's a great thing that these are sitting there and we're going to use them. I applaud doing that.

Mr. Shapleigh said that I absolutely support it. I would probably go with just loaning them.

Mr. Widi agreed with just loaning it.

Ms. Dow said that I think I agree with Mr. Trott's statement about having one of them, at least, be a little more accessible, because I know over here at the middle school it would be hard for someone on foot to get near that. I do love the idea. I think it's great. Thank you for bringing this to us.

5:42 PM **Mr. Widi moved, second by Ms. Dow, that the Eliot Select Board give the Eliot Historical Society the authority to find a suitable location for one of the 'Silent Policemen' and then a more tangible possible loan agreement, to include parameters for that, for the second one.**

DISCUSSION

Ms. Adams asked if it was okay for the EHS, with the Select Board, to explore two options and, then, if we decide we want to loan one that's fine. I agree but we

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just thought that one would be really nice to have. Two would be good but we weren't sure what the Town would want.

Mr. Trott said that it may be feasible to do only one. We'll have to see what you come up with. WE may not find appropriate locations for two. I think it's great to hear that you're taking on the task.

Mr. Widi said that I will withdraw my motion.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Mr. Widi moved, second by Ms. Dow, that the Eliot Select Board allow the Eliot Historical Society to find a suitable location for both 'Silent Policemen', to be approved at a later date by the Select Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow – Yes

Mr. Shapleigh – Yes

Mr. Trott – Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

5:46 PM Mr. (Gene) Wypyski, Creek Crossing, co-Chair of the Eliot Festival Day Committee, said that I wanted to remind everyone that the last Saturday in September (30th), 'these' (canvas bags) will be on sale for \$10. We have a lot of fun planned. The kid's area has expanded. 9AM to 3PM in the center of Eliot. We still have openings in the road race. Look forward to seeing everyone there.

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

5:48 PM Motion by Mr. Widi, second by Mr. Shapleigh, to approve the minutes of January 12, 2023, as written.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow – Yes

Mr. Shapleigh – Yes

Mr. Trott – (abstained)

Vote 3-0-1 to approve motion.

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D. Public Hearing:

There were no public hearings.

E. Reports

5:50 PM Town Manager Report

Mr. Sullivan said that we did discuss the Town website rebuild. We've gotten a number of photos from different people in Town and we're working on that. There's a conversation about how the season with the Boat Basin went. Also, information about Town Meeting Warrant November election. Regarding the Comcast access channel installation, they were here today pulling fiber to bring us a little bit closer and tonight we will be considering a proposal from a PEG specialist in terms of getting the technology and everything in place that we need. I would like to remind people that are watching tonight that the Clerk's Office will be closed September 21st. Staff will be here in the back. We ask people to make appointments. Call when you arrive and we will meet you at the door and let you in. That ensures that the person you want to see is going to be here and also allows us to allocate time appropriately for staff. The staff of the Clerk's Office will be in Augusta for election training. I did meet with the school district this week and we did talk about the fact that we're going to expand this building to make sure that voting is in this building. They thought that that was a good idea and they did recognize that there is a growing movement across the country to have voting outside of the school for safety and security reasons or have them closed when they have to, which is not always convenient or able to do.

Mr. Widi moved, second by Mr. Trott, that the Eliot Select Board approve the Town Manager's report.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow – Yes

Mr. Shapleigh – Yes

Mr. Trott - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

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F. Board and Committee Appointments/Resignations

5:53 PM 1. June Hamel Resignation from Aging-in-Place

Mr. Widi said that this resignation is for personal reasons. We thank her very much for her service and, hopefully, she can come back and lend her talents at a later date. He asked Mr. Sullivan to let her know how much her efforts are appreciated and we would like to see her again.

Mr. Widi moved, second by Ms. Dow, that the Eliot Select Board accept the resignation of June Hamel from the Aging-in-Place Committee.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow – Yes

Mr. Shapleigh – Yes

Mr. Trott - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

5:54 PM 2. Richard Kaknes Conservation Commission Applicant

Mr. Widi said that he looks like the right guy for the right committee in my opinion.

Mr. Cabot agreed he has plenty of knowledge and experience.

Mr. Sullivan said that Mr. Kaknes sent an email today apologizing for not being able to make tonight's meeting. He did submit an additional letter for your consideration and I gave copies of that tonight. Hopefully, that will be part of the record, as well.

Mr. Widi said that it is.

Mr. Widi moved, second by Mr. Trott, that the Eliot Select Board appoint Richard Kaknes to the Eliot Conservation Commission for a term ending June 30, 2026.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow – Yes

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Mr. Shapleigh – Yes
Mr. Trott - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

G. New Business:

1. S. Keene Lilac Lane – Request to address Select Board

This item was deferred to the next regular meeting. The person requesting could not attend tonight's meeting for personal reasons.

5:57 PM 2. PEG Proposal

Mr. Sullivan said that, in your packet, I submitted the Randy Buccini proposal. Mr. Buccini was instrumental, and continues to be involved, as a contractor in Kittery. I sent out requests based on different groups that Comcast supplied that have the technological capability to set up our PEG access. I had two respondents of the four I sent out. I felt that Mr. Buccini was, first, the most affordable. He was the closest to us, most accessible, and really has been most responsive. He's already been very helpful. What I'm asking for tonight is, one, to have a motion to waive the three-bid rule and, two, to allow me to engage Mr. Buccini in an agreement, not to exceed \$24,000. Just so everyone recalls, this is a PEG access grant so it doesn't come from the taxpayer and it's within your power under FCC rules for you to grant this expenditure.

Mr. Widi said that I think the grant money was \$60,000/year.

Mr. Sullivan said that it was \$24,000. Right now, we have \$38,000 in the account. You get about \$12,000 every three months. After the grant, there's a service fee on each bill, I believe \$1.15, that goes to the Town from the 1,852 subscribers to Comcast. The numbers are going down but this will allow us to equip this room to access the PEG access channel. Also, to increase our technological capability in this room and have one more form of communication. For some of you that are familiar with it, we'll have a message board that continually changes and is very common in other communities. It would be great to see Eliot Festival Days up there on a regular basis. I think it's a great addition. It doesn't work for everybody. A lot of people are cutting the cord and going online, and that's okay. We will still have online service. One of the other things I thought was beneficial for the Town of Eliot was that this doesn't change the relationship with Town Hall Streams. The other proposal made it where we would have a different streaming package and basically streaming to our own server, which frightened me. So, I think this is a good thing.

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5:59 PM Mr. Widi said that this is not taxable money, money is already sitting there in the account, and after we spend, potentially, the \$24,000, we have additional monies for maintenance or any other unforeseen expense related to this.

Mr. Sullivan said yes. And, as it builds up, you may have me to come in to suggest having a part-time technician come in for our meetings just so that we have somebody here that can overcome any deficiencies.

Mr. Trott said that subscribers are already paying into this. They ought to take advantage of it and use it.

Mr. Widi moved, second by Ms. Dow, that the Eliot Select Board waive the three-bid requirement and authorize the Town Manager for technical skills to establish a PEG Cable Access channel for the Town of Eliot.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow – Yes

Mr. Shapleigh – Yes

Mr. Trott - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

Mr. Widi moved, second by Mr. Shapleigh, that the Eliot Select Board authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Randy Buccini, within the parameters presented, and further allow the Town Manager to access up to \$24,000 and further allow from the PEG Access Grant to consult and otherwise perform and coordinate the necessary work to establish an Eliot Cable Access Channel.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow – Yes

Mr. Shapleigh – Yes

Mr. Trott - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

H. Old Business:

6:04 PM 1. Fiscal Year 2022 Audit

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Mr. Sullivan said that we are happy to say that the FY 2022 audit is completed. I think it speaks to the solid financial ground that Eliot is on if you look at the management letter. The management letter and the full report of significant audit findings and balance sheets are on the website and I would encourage people to take a look at those. Our cash position increased by over a million dollars and our unassigned funds increased by, I think, about \$600,000. There are signs that there is still a lot of work to do and I really want to call out Ms. McNulty, our Finance Director, who has done an excellent job putting this together and putting all the information to the auditor. I would point out that we have already started the FY23 audit. I will have been here a year and a half and we will have done three audits. I've never seen that before and it does put a lot of pressure on staff but they've really reacted very well to add to that. We're in the midst of applying for the balance of the SRF (State Revolving Fund) money, which is another financial exercise that takes a lot of time and effort away from different things. Everyone, from the Town Clerk/Town Treasurer, the Finance Director to the Assessor, the Planner to the Town Manager, is really deeply engaged in that application. Hopefully, we'll be able to get it out next week. You may recall that we have about \$14.1 million left to borrow for the Route 236 project and we're looking to get your blessing some time in the future to borrow the balance of that as opposed to splitting it up as we have in the past. We split it up in the past because we didn't want to borrow any more money than we had in unassigned funds, as our audits weren't done. Now, we can borrow the full amount I'm happy to report. As I said, there are still a number of things we need to do on the Route 236 project. While I'm on this subject. I understand that the road conditions on Route 236 are very difficult; that we've heard from residents and I appreciate their patience and I fully understand their frustration, as well. This project is the largest infrastructure project that Eliot has ever faced. It is a very complex project when you think about blasting and cutting into basalt and the rock that they are dealing with. Gravity-fed sewer systems and other pipes not showing up on maps were they should be. We broke into a private sewer pipe last week that was eleven feet away from where it was from the drawings. Those are things we're dealing with. People have been very patient with us replacing their mail boxes. I understand as I've asked the same question as to why the laterals are caving in. We've heard it's a compaction problem. The contractor says it's not a compaction problem. I can't say because I'm not a professional in that area but I did point out to them that there is a smooth transition when you go over the line into Kittery where similar work was done recently. The whole group, Chairs and Vice-Chairs, instructed me to have the whole group in next meeting (28th) for an update because we're closing up this season. I think that's a good idea, reiterating his understanding of the people's frustration. The reality is that everything has to be repaved, brought back to DOT standards, by October 15th and we're going to hold them to that. If not, we'll have to look at having damages. The project is going along. They are a

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little bit ahead. We don't know if the rain is going to set us back. They have had some areas they have had to take water out of. Somehow I got far away from the audit but I thought the correlation between the borrowing and the audit was that we wouldn't be able to borrow if our audit wasn't in place. I would like to point out that, in the management letter, you'll see a number of critiques and suggested changes we should make in our practices. Those are fairly normal. There weren't any significant findings in respect to material weaknesses, they call them, usually when you have a management letter. I would also like to point out that many of them – cash reconciliation, credit card rules, and such – have already been put in place. Because they weren't in place in 2022, they are reflected in this management letter. I know you'll see those practices cleaned up. There are some things that we've been told that are commonplace that our auditors don't want us to do. One that comes to mind is that, oftentimes, boards and committees will have refreshments and we were told that that may run foul of some municipal rules. If people want to bring food, they can donate it or find somebody to donate it, but it shouldn't be paid out of the coffer. It's a long-standing tradition but we have to move away from it.

6:10 PM Mr. Widi said that, since you brought it up, I always believe in being fair and I know that's been a Budget Committee sticking point on certain things in prior years pre-dating you. So I do like to acknowledge when if that is what the auditor is saying is appropriate and the Budget Committee has been saying that for a long period of time, I do believe in acknowledging that. So, thank you for saying that. I don't want to get hung up on the Route 236 construction issue because I'm not a physicist or soil scientist but, if it's not a compaction problem, where is the stuff going.

Mr. Sullivan said that there are other people who would argue that the compaction is okay but, with the way that the overlay is being put down, there are better methods for doing that. It's very hard to listen to a municipal contractor argue those things and not slow a project down. One thing I should say is that the testing has already started, which is a positive. We could have asked them to completely repave the roads before the testing was done but it would have ended up being an added expense and, if there was any failure in the testing, we would have been liable for that, as well. The testing should be done: Beech Road looks like it will be done in another 10 work days, and the testing should be finished shortly thereafter. Next year there isn't going to be as much interruption as most of it is going to be cross-country lateral off the road and building of pump stations.

6:12 PM Mr. Trott asked if we had a management company making sure they are following the standards.

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Mr. Sullivan said that we do. They met all the standards by the DOT. WE have J.T. Turner, a third-party consultant, who has met with the engineers and determined that the compaction is sufficient. They didn't say that the compaction is perfect but that it is sufficient to meet the standards for patches. When the road is brought back to the final standard of the DOT it will be two weeks of real challenges on Route 236 again. They are going to have to grind down, then there's a compaction process, there, but the layers are different and we shouldn't have the sinking problem. We won't have a sinking problem again. I would point out that the State has been monitoring this, as well, and they're not happy. They're getting a lot of complaints, as well. Nobody is happy. We'll all be happy when the project is done.

6:14 PM Ms. Dow asked how does the auditor do the year coming in. How are you starting the 2023 audit without it being completed yet.

Mr. Sullivan said that it is FY2023 that ended in June.

Mr. Widi asked if anyone had any questions or comments on the audit in particular.

There were none.

Mr. Widi said to Mr. Sullivan that this is a very sincere thank you for spearheading this and thank Ms. McNulty. I know that coming into a place and then just be handed a pile of something is not particularly fun. She's done an awesome job. You've done an awesome job. From a finance standpoint, Mr. Ferrara has done an excellent job, and Mr. Martin did an excellent job of getting the assessments more appropriate. So, from the financial side of things, you all have done an awesome, awesome job. I think that's a pretty unanimous opinion of the SB. Thank you.

Mr. Widi moved second by Mr. Trott, that the Eliot Select Board accept the FY22 audit findings and instruct the Town Manager to make sure it is posted on the website.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow – Yes

Mr. Shapleigh – Yes

Mr. Trott - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

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6:17 PM 2. November Town Meeting Warrant Informational Material

Mr. Sullivan said that the SB has had most of this for quite some time. We still have a draft, pending your vote. We would like to release it to the public so that they can start reviewing it. The ballot is at the printer. I don't know if there are any questions or things you'd like to discuss.

Mr. Widi said that, with all the budget articles, the Budget Committee votes were all 7-0 to match our 5-0 on those.

Mr. Sullivan said yes. I appreciate those. It was a very helpful meeting.

Mr. Widi said that I do have a letter here from a Budget Committee member on Article #12 concerning the way the budget is voted on but not a particular article. He called me today and I committed to reading this letter from Mr. Latter. I disagree with some of it but I think that Mr. Latter has been a real asset in Town and he deserves the respect of me reading this: "Dear Honorable Select Board, let me start with the fact that while I serve on the Budget Committee, this communication is from me as an individual. This was an issue discussed at the recent Budget Committee meeting last night and I believe that you may possibly be discussing it again tonight. Hence, this rather abrupt communication. My apologies after recent surgery. I am at PT at 5:30 and do not have time to change or attend tonight's meeting. I'm not sure of the remedy, if any, at this point but would have felt remiss if I had not brought my concerns forward. Last evening several of us were made aware of an ordinance change that would have an impactful and immediate change in the Town's budget process. After this issue came up, I reviewed all published works on the Town website and found nowhere the issue was defined at any level of specificity, either in a published agenda before any meetings or any published minutes afterward. I was able to obtain a copy of the Select Board packet from August 14th but did not find this online. The crux of my concern is that the Board is recommending a ballot question that fundamentally changes the budget process as it exists. The reasons for this are many and, in my thinking, mostly positive but I would have hoped that all parties involved would have had a chance, at some point, for on-the-record input. If I missed this I apologize. A quick reading of the approved question brings to mind several questions and one specifically. Does the new proposed language of an ordinance allow, as defined by Charter as a Budget Committee prerogative; namely, to make a specific dollar amount recommendation to the voters at June Town Meeting election? Here are the pertinent areas of my concern. It is 6.6 C of the Charter: "The Select Board and Budget Committee recommended vote count numbers and dollar amounts only shall be published on the warrant with the article." The exact wording in the language is "the Budget Committee, as to whether they support or reject a category recommendation, the

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voter will have the choice to vote yes or no on each category.” So that is Mr. Latter’s concern with Article #12. My rebuttal to that would be that I presented the possible change at the July 13th meeting. The SB approved us going down the hole of possibly changing it. We then put it back on for the end of August, reviewed it, and nobody really commented on it then. So, it was on the agenda twice. I did look back when he brought that up. With the wording of the Charter, my argument would be that, when the Budget Committee recommends no, they are recommending a number; the number recommending is last year’s budget number. That’s my personal opinion. I don’t know what the rest of the Board thinks but I would be in some more legal guidance on that to assuage any concerns.

6:20 PM Mr. Trott said that I do agree that a no vote would default to the previous. That’s the way I always understood it.

Mr. Sullivan said that, if there’s a nuance difference between last year’s number and the number that the Budget Committee might pick might be higher than last year’s. I think that’s where some of the conversation is in. It’s a tough one. I sent this to counsel. They did review it and had no problem with it. I just found this concern this afternoon. So, I talked with counsel once and they thought it met the standard but I didn’t ask them the question about §C. I appreciate the Vice-Chair saying that I’ll be allowed to bring that back to them and have another discussion to see what this means. The challenge is that the ballots are already being printed and, unlike an in-person Town Meeting, you can’t make an amend, so-to-speak. So, let me find out and I will get back to the SB as to what this means.

6:22 PM Mr. Widi said that I know it’s expensive but is it possible to get a written opinion, as I know these things can take a while, from the lawyer that we could hand to the Budget Committee for anybody who has these concerns. I know we’ve done that in the past. In the past, I definitely know that you’ve saved us money on the legal standpoint of not doing that but I think that, if someone feels that they weren’t made aware, even though I think we fairly did. I think Mr. Latter deserves our respect.

Mr. Wypyski said that the Budget Committee didn’t have a meeting in August and I think that was the crux of the communications going like this. I know I was at a meeting in July where all of this was presented and the first thing I thought was that we cancelled the August meeting for a break. When we figured this out, it started to be September and here it is. So, that was the communications. I spoke to the Budget Committee to say that I was at that meeting and it was said that we never knew. That’s why I go to the meetings, to get this stuff. They always present the concern that, if the minutes were timely and/or if the video worked better, maybe we could have seen it. But be it as it may, this is water under the

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bridge. We also discussed the item you just read from Mr. Latter that we went over. Speaking as a member of the Budget Committee, I don't get what they're trying to get out of the reading of that particular subset. It was read to imply that it allows the Budget Committee the ability to pick a number. I would get that. If you were to get legal counsel and it was definitive, that could go a long way to stopping this conversation or concern with some of the Budget Committee members.

6:24 PM Mr. Widi said if there's a reasonable disagreement by reasonable people, let legal counsel be the referee and we'll go from there.

Mr. Wypyski said that I think that's a reasonable way to go. I don't get the interpretation that some of my colleagues on the Budget Committee are taking from that sentence and that is the crux of some people's concern.

Mr. Trott said that, on a side note, I am glad to see you here, Mr. Wypyski doing these meetings as a member of the Budget Committee because it does make it easier with communications. I try to make some of your meetings, as well. I seem to keep being yanked away from things.

Mr. Wypyski said that we appreciate that, as well. Unfortunately, as things go, misinformation tends to be always be lurking in our ability to minimize or eliminate misinformation and general bologna. I particularly want to thank you for sending the Town Manager a week ago because he was a key in presenting facts, keeping things crystal clear, and keeping us on pace and focused on some good decision-making.

Mr. Widi moved, second by Mr. Trott, that the Eliot Select Board approve the Town Meeting Warrant information and rationales, as presented, and authorize the Town Manager and Town Clerk to offer the information packet to the public via all reasonable means.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Dow said that I wonder if we should wait to here from our counsel before sending out information via packet to the citizens.

Mr. Trott agreed.

Mr. Widi said that the problem is that, sometimes, as Mr. Sullivan said, it takes forever to get a response from counsel and to hold up all the important budget things that are essential 12-0 to recommend, I'm not necessarily in favor of holding up.

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6:27 PM Mr. Trott said that I'm not looking to hold it up but, if we can get that response, even if it comes in after, we're showing our intent because we do have a concern and none of us are sitting here trying to brush it under.

Mr. Sullivan said that, if we get an opinion, we can attach it to the rationales. The important challenge is that the ballots are already being printed and there are people already interested in seeing why you're putting \$500,000 towards Murray Rowe Park while you are pitting the \$9,000 towards General Assistance. I think that putting it out, as it is and as you've discussed at previous meetings, if something else comes down the road, we're going to put that information out, as well. It may be a case where, at some point, the SB suggests we need to do some more work on this. I also think there's a question of what if everything passes. What does that mean for the upcoming year, upcoming election. Do we do it the same way we've done it in the past. Do we put a charter commission together. I don't know those answers. This was posed late today and I appreciate Mr. Latter posing them. I think that's important for us to know. But, I think that putting out the information and the rationales, because the Clerk is already being asked about other things beyond this, I don't think harms anything. If something else comes up later, we can always add it to the packet.

6:30 PM Mr. Widi said that the legal counsel reviews it and says that they messed up and didn't see that and they say we can't do that, then what.

Mr. Sullivan said that I don't know. It's a little more complex than that. I'd really like to have it simplified. Let's say that the voters voted yes on the changes and it was now inconsistent with the Charter. Now, there are some other things in the Charter, as we've discussed before and I've heard the public discuss, that seem to be in conflict with things in the ordinance or things within the ordinance that are in conflict with the ordinance so I want to have the time to ask that question, as well, to counsel, what does that mean. Do sections of it stand. Okay, the section where it says we have to put an amount in, maybe that stands.

Mr. Widi said that that's a simplification of things like the bunch of stuff listed under Public Works.

Mr. Sullivan said that I think there are a lot of other things that the Clerk is very grateful for, consolidating the number of warrant articles from 23 to 9, to changing the Citizen's Option to make it more standardized, and that was cumbersome from a ballot perspective. Think about the challenges we're having right now on the ballot. It's two months from election and we have to get it printed. I appreciate the fact that you are instructing me and allowing me to find out more about what it would mean if part of it was to stand or it doesn't just

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simply be held in abeyance until a charter commission is formed and takes some action. What are our options I think would be the question I would be asking.

6:31 PM Mr. Widi said, just to recap, we get the information up there on the budget articles and our synopsis of Town Meeting change. If there is further information, we will put that up as an addendum or make the necessary adjustments or follow the letter of the law to the “T” and make any changes we have to at that time when we know positively one way or the other.

Mr. Sullivan said that, if the Board so chooses, you might want me to put a red letter of note there that says ‘More information forthcoming. Please review this again before you vote.’

Ms. Dow said that I think that’s a great idea. That it lets people know that there is some action going on about that question.

Mr. Widi said that that’s fair.

Ms. Lemire said that I think that this process that we’re going through, now, is really going to be beneficial in the long run because it’s pulling more people into the conversation right now. Changes are being made and they notice that these are big changes and, so, they are considering it, they are thinking, and they’re asking questions.

Mr. Widi said that it is good to see. I got elected in July of 2020 because they pushed the election back a month and, so, for two years doing Covid, nobody came to anything. It was nice when we actually had a roomful of people participate and not just waiting until they’re upset and doing this.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Amended motion:

Mr. Widi moved, second by Mr. Trott, that the Eliot Select Board approve the Town Meeting Warrant information and rationales, as presented, and authorize the Town Manager and Town Clerk to offer the information packet to the public via all reasonable means. A red letter note/warning will be added to say ‘More information forthcoming. Please review again before voting.’ to the posted public information.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Widi – Yes

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Ms. Dow – Yes
Mr. Shapleigh – Yes
Mr. Trott - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

6:36 PM 3. Certification of Ordinance(s) for Article 11 (Shooting Range), Article 12 (Budget Process).

Mr. Widi moved, second by Mr. Trott, that the Eliot Select Board certify the warrant article as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Widi – Yes
Ms. Dow – Yes
Mr. Shapleigh – Yes
Mr. Trott - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

I. Approval of Warrant(s):

6:37 PM Mr. Widi moved, second by Mr. Trott, that the Select Board approve Payroll Warrant #16 in the amount of \$51,103.65, dated August 17, 2023; Payroll Warrant #17 in the amount of \$61,373.01, dated August 24, 2023; Payroll Warrant #19 in the amount of \$47,124.74, dated August 31, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Widi – Yes
Ms. Dow – Yes
Mr. Shapleigh – Yes
Mr. Trott - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

6:38 PM Mr. Widi moved, second by Ms. Dow, that the Select Board approve A/P Warrant #18 in the amount of \$1,008,888.49, dated August 23, 2023; A/P Warrant #20 in the amount of \$327,808.01, dated August 31, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

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Mr. Widi – Yes
Ms. Dow – Yes
Mr. Shapleigh – Yes
Mr. Trott - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

J. Adjourn

Ms. Dow moved, second by Mr. Shapleigh, that the Select Board adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Widi – Yes
Ms. Dow – Yes
Mr. Shapleigh – Yes
Mr. Trott - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Lemire, Recording Secretary

S/ Lauren Dow, Secretary

Date approved: September 28, 2023