

SELECT BOARD MEETING

March 10 2022 5:30PM

Town Hall/Hybrid

Quorum noted

5:30 PM: Meeting called to order by Chairperson Donhauser.

A. Roll Call: Mr. Donhauser, Mr. McPherson, Mr. Widi, and Ms. Dow.

B. Pledge of Allegiance recited

C. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

D. Public Hearing:

There were no public hearings.

E. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

5:31 PM Motion by Mr. McPherson, second by Ms. Dow, to approve the minutes of February 10, 2022, as written.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

F. Department Head/Committee Reports

5:33 PM 1) Town Manager's Report

Mr. Sullivan said that there is not much to add. I would like to encourage people to go to the website and check out the Manager's Report that is posted monthly. The sewer project is moving quickly, now, which is very exciting. I did announce that we have another retirement coming for Ms. Bragg, who has been great, in the Clerk's Office, and will retire in March. We recently had Police Officer Mike Brogan retire that Mr. McPherson had mentioned last time. We wish them well in their retirement and we are taking a cautious approach to replacing those people. We want to make sure we are looking at the job descriptions, review them thoroughly, and make sure we match them up with future needs as well as

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historical responsibilities that those positions have. I'm trying to not rush into just hiring quickly to replace people but give it some deep thought about what we are going to need going forward.

G. New Business:

5:34 PM 1) Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Update (see update 3/3/2022 version on Town website)

Mr. Sullivan said the, tonight, we will be voting on the warrant and I thought, as I go along in the notions, if there's a section the SB would like to discuss, I will address it at that time.

Mr. Donhauser agreed.

Mr. Sullivan said that the first one is really an advisory motion but we will take it anyway.

Article #3:

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #3 as presented in the warrant setting the levy limit at \$4,024,001.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Sullivan said that this will be quite a bit below LD1. Something that was desirous of the SB and Budget Committee. We have realized some increase in values due to the hard work of our Assessor. In discussions with him, he had related to me that about 60% of those increases are going to be attributed to businesses along Route 236 that were not valued at what the rate should be at this point. So, it is good for Eliot financially and I think those businesses are going to be benefitting by improvements and increased opportunities for businesses along that corridor. It is a slight increase but I don't think it's going to impact residents as much as people predict.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

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Unanimous vote to approve motion.

Article #4:

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #4 as presented in the warrant setting the revenue projection for fiscal year 2023 at \$4,865,614.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Sullivan said that, as you can see, there is a discrepancy between what the Budget Committee feels is appropriate. They set their revenue estimate at \$4,939,204; that it would be about \$80,000 more than what the SB is recommending to be voted on. A lot of that has to do with the positioning of the TIF salary money, which I've spoken on before. I do believe that it's sound fiscal practice to not use borrowed money. We're essentially borrowing that money at this point until you get to a position that you're clearly going to see that the funds are sufficient and money is coming in to satisfy that bond. You're borrowing \$70,000 to \$80,000 a year. The payback on that over the period of the bond is probably \$300,000 to \$400,000. If you do that every year, it's going to turn into millions of dollars. So this year, I think you certainly have the wherewithal to pay that money from your general fund taxation and I'd encourage you to do so.

Mr. Donhauser said that I agree with not taking this from the anticipated revenue from the TIF and moving it, as we have in the past, to the general fund to offset salaries. I agree with the Town Manager's assessment of the actual cost in doing that. Regarding the Budget Committee, they have a recommendation on Line #2, showing an increase of \$73,590, which is the difference between what we're proposing. Then, under Line #3 Administration, they show a reduction as a result of that recommendation. My Question is, on Line #19, fixed assessments has also increased by \$73,590. Why is that.

Mr. Sullivan said that we don't know.

Mr. Donhauser said that it looks like it was put in, taken out, then put in again.

Mr. Sullivan agreed.

Mr. Donhauser said that, so, it's been put in twice. I couldn't understand that.

Mr. Sullivan said neither could we or the Finance Director.

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DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes
Mr. McPherson - Yes
Mr. Widi – Yes
Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

Article #5:

5:40 PM Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #5 as presented in the warrant setting the Administrative Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$1,545,639.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Donhauser said that the difference in the Budget Committee appears to have been somewhat divided, with 5-2. Do you know what the difference is.

Mr. Sullivan said about \$139,000. Some of that is the \$73,000 and they requested other adjustments to the travel and training go back to last year's figure. But I strongly believe this is an appropriate amount to operate.

Mr. Donhauser said that the major difference is the \$73,590, which is the TIF money being reduced as a result of transferring TIF money into the general fund.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes
Mr. McPherson - Yes
Mr. Widi – Yes
Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

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Article #6:

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #6 as presented in the warrant setting the Hearings and Elections Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$28,245.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

Article #7:

5:42 PM Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #7 as presented in the warrant setting the Fire Department Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$223,356.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Sullivan said that the only discrepancy there is the want to have worker's comp restored to their budget.

Mr. Donhauser said that what the Budget Committee appears to be doing is actually just moving the budget around instead of increasing or decreasing it. In fact, it's not really a recommendation for an increase or decrease. It's merely the accounting of the budget and I think that's an administrative function not a Budget Committee function.

Mr. Sullivan said that your Charter is clear, paraphrasing, that the Town Manager and SB choose the form appropriate to present the budget.

Mr. Donhauser said that we run into this repeatedly because the Budget Committee is essentially distributing the worker's comp budget throughout about seven different articles. I actually don't see a benefit of that because every department is not going to have worker's comp potential claim every year, or it would be unlikely that there would be more than two or three. I think that putting it in one account makes a lot of sense and just maintain a schedule of where those claims are. I support this article as recommended.

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Mr. Widi said that, when they sent us this, it's confusing for the voters. We're here bi-monthly and we get it but people aren't going to understand this – more money for one thing and less money for another. All it does is muddy the waters and essentially makes voting worthless and not a good way to do it. The Budget Committee should be ashamed of themselves. If they want clear transparency, to do it this way is just insane. I don't get it.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes
Mr. McPherson - Yes
Mr. Widi – Yes
Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

Article #8:

5:45 PM Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #8 as presented in the warrant setting the Police Department Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$1,353,581.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Sullivan said that, again, the difference is the worker's comp.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes
Mr. McPherson - Yes
Mr. Widi – Yes
Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

Mr. Sullivan said that, before we move on, we had a very impressive conference at the Regatta for the police. Police from Boston, New Hampshire, and many others gathered and talked about mental health issues that police face. Hats off to

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our Chief, Elliott Moya, who is right up front of that issue. His stature is growing amongst people so I just want to give a shout out to him and the great job the whole police department did about mental health issues.

Article #9:

5:47 PM Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #9 as presented in the warrant setting the Public Safety Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$291,105.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Donhauser said that, again, I believe that the worker's comp is the difference.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

Article #10:

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #10 as presented in the warrant setting the Public Works Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$921,223.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Donhauser said that their suggestion that we reduce the budget by \$3,600 represent workman's comp. They are actually increasing that budget by \$20,395 but they are reducing it by \$_____, which I don't understand. It says a minus \$3,600. I don't see any explanation for the minus \$3,600.

Mr. Sullivan said, again, it's such a small portion. When you're doing budgeting, you're trying to budget forecasting. I think it's important to leave room in the budget for departments to operate and to exploit opportunities. If the money is not

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used, it will go back to the general fund. It's the Manager's job to make sure they spend this money appropriately and I commit that that will happen.

Mr. Donhauser said that another point that should be made is that \$3,600 on an over \$8,000,000 budget represents .0004 percent of the budget. That's almost infinitesimal. Not a great amount of money when you view the entire budget.

Mr. Sullivan agreed.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

Article #11:

5:50 PM Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #11 as presented in the warrant setting the Snow Removal/Winter Roads Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$213,033.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Donhauser said that, again, the difference is in the workman's comp.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

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Article #12:

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #12 as presented in the warrant setting the Summer Maintenance Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$57,296.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Donhauser said that, again, the difference in the amounts is the distribution of workman's comp.

Ms. Dow said that I think these are legal.

Mr. Donhauser agreed.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

Article #13:

5:52 PM Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #13 as presented in the warrant setting the Roads and Bridges Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$2,000.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

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Mr. Sullivan said that, in talking with department heads, we'd like to make a suggestion that the ordinance be adjusted to consolidate some of these articles. \$2,000 for Roads & Bridges has gone back, I think, like 2,000 years. It hasn't changed and it's used to lease one piece of machinery. I just think it should be consolidated into your Public Works budget. Same thing with Summer Maintenance. This might not be the time to talk about it but I just want to let you know, and the public, that department heads and I have been talking about that. I hope you can consider that in the future. It just seems to make the ballot longer and more confusing.

Mr. Donhauser said, for example, Article #13 (Roads & Bridges) and Article #12 (Summer Maintenance), between the SB and Budget Committee are in agreement, anyway, and they both relate to roads. Those two articles could easily be combined. Perhaps not this year but in the future. I also agree that small amounts don't necessarily require they're own article.

Article #14:

5:54 PM Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #14 as presented in the warrant setting the Solid Waste Transfer Station Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$269,568.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes
Mr. McPherson - Yes
Mr. Widi – Yes
Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

Article #15:

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #15 as presented in the warrant setting the Federal Stormwater Management Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$135,000.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes
Mr. McPherson - Yes

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Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

Article #16:

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #16 as presented in the warrant setting the Community Services Department Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$442,773.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Widi asked if Mr. Sullivan could explain the Budget Committee's comment – "This should be included under programming expenses for each activity." Are we counting teaspoons and gasoline.

Mr. Sullivan said that the way I understand it, they feel there should be an assessment to any activity to pay for the gasoline.

Mr. Widi said that that is totally not workable or practical. As someone who uses a lot of gasoline, I can tell you that's almost impossible. They would spend five hours a week trying to figure out many teaspoons of gasoline they put in each tank, and for what reason. It's crazy.

Mr. Sullivan said that, again, it goes back to what you mentioned earlier that this is such a small portion of the budget and you and they and I have spent a lot of time on it. That time is valuable and, again, if we don't use this money, it goes back to the general fund, and we will use it judiciously. I know that others don't trust that but it's true. We look very closely at how we can save money.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

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5:57 PM Article #17:

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #17 as presented in the warrant setting the General Assistance Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$20,000.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

5:58 PM Article #18:

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #18 as presented in the warrant setting the Capital Improvement Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$1,347,700.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Donhauser said that the obvious, major difference is \$500,000 being taken away from Road Paving. That that's a minus and then they are putting back \$106,000 (Public Works Reserve \$75,000 and Parks & Maintenance \$35,000). I'm not sure why.

Mr. Widi said, regarding Paving, (Budget Committee's comment) "last year's budget no documentation provided for increase to \$1,000,000". Drive around Town and, when your tire almost falls off your car, you will understand the need for paving. Drive down Governor Hill Road and you'll understand where the money is going. We have been underfunding this for years.

Mr. Donhauser said that I've had a discussion with the Town Manager that made a lot of sense for me. We can use a smaller budget but the problem with a smaller budget is that you can only do half the work or even half the job. For example, when you normally pave the road, there's a number of ways you can do it. You can take up the entire road and pulverize the existing asphalt, put it back down as a base, put a binder on top of that, and put a seal coat on top of that. What we do to try to extend a paving budget at a lesser amount is to do a portion of that. Let's say we can't pull up the old asphalt, which has a lot of cracks and holes, so what we do is put a binder over that. Then you have water infiltration if you don't put a

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surface coat on there. So, it's somewhat shortsighted and I tend to agree with the Town Manager that it's shortsighted if you only do half of a job, half of the way. That is one of the reasons I would say we need \$1,000,000 to repair the roads in Eliot. I think Mr. Widi has a good point. You can drive around and hit the potholes, telling what roads need to be paved.

Ms. Lemire said that it's very obvious when you look at the impact on the roads. The cracks and where they are, the potholes and where they are, located within the road surface that our roads are in very bad shape.

6:00 PM

Mr. Widi said that it would be one thing if we lived south of the Mason-Dixon Line and we could half-heartedly do the roads. But, you can't do that in areas where you get heavy frost, then frost-thaw, frost-thaw since January.

Mr. Donhauser added that circumstances also change. From now until summer, we might have a road completely open up, primarily because of heavy trucks driving. We try to restrict the driving of heavy trucks over a certain weight limit but, if we have constant freeze and thaw, freeze and thaw, the roads break down rather quickly. So, it's difficult to make a list today and not include a road that's potentially damaged in the near future.

Mr. Sullivan said that I appreciate the comments and I agree. One of the other parts of that is, when we're contracting with Libbey Scott, or whoever we're going to have do our paving, we have to know how much we have because it might change the dynamics. We might do a neighborhood 'here' if we get \$1,000,000 but, if we don't get \$1,000,000 because of the way it works out in the contract, we may stay away from that neighborhood. And that's been happening all too often. I think that, reasonably, if you go out and look around, there's \$1,000,000 worth of work on Eliot's streets to be repaired. I really appreciate you supporting that. This is going to an area the taxpayers are demanding. It's one of the #1 things we hear from people – to make the roads safe. We also, with this paving money, have applied for some grants and we're looking at some other opportunities to put crosswalks in and signal lights in for 'slow caution', where it's appropriate for grants. If we're not paving the road or applying for those grants, it's just going to look haphazard. And so, I appreciate the fact that we need to invest in Eliot and make sure that we make that investment last and do it the right way.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

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Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

6:04 PM Article #19:

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #19 as presented in the warrant setting the Reserve Account Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$221,365.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Sullivan said that he would like to say two things. Going back to the streets, there were a number of requests to tell us exactly what streets we are doing and I think it's really important to not politicize what streets are being done. That's for the professionals. That's not for people to say I want this street or that street. And here, similarly, the wage and training, I think, really bothered them. They don't like the fact that there is a risk of people that are going to get particular training, what the compensation changes are going to be, those kinds of details. And as I've said to you before, and I appreciate your understanding, it's pretty difficult, particularly in a union environment, to say who is going to get training before this money is put in place because it could go all awry and create dissension among the ranks. If I say Chairman Donhauser is going to get training and Member McPherson is not going to get training, there might be some animus there that, if I'm not going to get the money, I'm don't need to deal with it. I will be able to deal with it, if it happens, but I need to know what resources I have to work with. This is a managerial issue. It's plagued Eliot for a long time and I hope, with your support and the support of the voters, I'll be able to make some corrections this year. And again, if we don't use it, it will go back into the general fund and I will use it judiciously.

6:06 PM Mr. Donhauser added that the amount of money that we're looking at leaving in or approving in this article is somewhat forward-looking in the sense that we want to train people to do jobs in the future. It also ties into employee retention. You train somebody to do something well, or you cross-train, you get a lot less turnover or, if you do have turnover, it's a lot less costly if someone else is trained to fill that position or that task. So there's a reason you want to put training in the budget.

Mr. Sullivan said that, if you invest in someone, they feel valued and feel more committed and more engaged in their work.

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Mr. Donhauser said that I fully support this article and strongly support the amount of \$190,000, which is a major portion of that article for Wages & Training with respect to our employees in Town.

6:07 PM Mr. Widi said how can you possibly know who is going to leave and who is going to need training for something that hasn't happened. We're trying to plan over the next 14-16 months and that's exactly why you can't allocate every nickel. You have to leave some flexibility for the managers to manage when something unexpected arises. Either somebody leaves, like our excellent Treasurer, or some odd situation arises, like COVID, or any other weird thing that could happen; that you can't allocate every nickel for the future. And anybody that's ever run a business or run a government understands that you have to leave some flexibility.

Mr. McPherson said that maybe the most important, the best place you can spend money, is in training. In any job, the need is training, and we're talking about, in Mr. Donhauser's quick math, \$190,000 is how much of the budget.

Mr. Sullivan said that it's about 9% but it pays incredible dividends.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

6:09 PM Article #20:

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #20 as presented in the warrant setting the Town Standing Committees Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$35,420.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

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Unanimous vote to approve motion.

Mr. Sullivan said, as a side note, the Budget Committee asked for an increase and were granted that.

6:10 PM Article #21:

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #21 as presented in the warrant setting the William Fogg Library Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$242,500

DISCUSSION

Mr. Donhauser said that it's totally mindboggling the Budget Committee's recommendation, which is 'none of the above'. There is only 'one of the above' and, so, that's one issue I have. The other is that they seem to be able commanding decisions on very small budgets requested. An example would be \$3,675 for travel, which represents .0004 of the total budget or they want to reduce \$2,500 for streetlights, which represents .00030. But they cannot render a recommendation on the Library. I'm not sure why they're doing this but, if something's going to confuse the voter, this will confuse the voter. What does 'none of the above' mean. Does it mean zero or maybe they want more or maybe they want less. It's unlikely that they want more.

6:11 PM Mr. Sullivan said that, working with the Town Clerk, we did advise the Chair of the Finance Committee (Budget Committee?) that there's no such vote. When the ordinance talks about 'none of the above', it means on the ballot, not on a vote from the Budget Committee. So, we did get to clarify that today. The Chair, through the Town Clerk, expressed that their intent was to vote for last year's number.

Mr. Donhauser said that, then, that number should be here.

Mr. Sullivan said correct and they were advised of that. They are going to call a meeting next week and take a vote of clarification to set their amount at \$241,433.94. It's a \$1,500 difference that's been requested by the Library. I would greatly appreciate the support of the SB because I want to build a relationship with the Library. There's been talk for years about having more oversight of the Library and, as we can see in world affairs right now, it's hard to have oversight when you're at each other's throats. I'm hoping that we can bring some civility to it and, over this next year I'll hopefully, unless Jean Hardy gets her way and I get fired in June, I'll be able to build a relationship with the Library so we can go

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forward and we don't have to have these kinds of difficult conversations. Everybody's not going to like each other. I get it. There are personalities everywhere you go. But, let's just be civil about it all. Again, I hope you recognize the \$242,500 and we can move on and, over the next year, we'll try to continue to build a positive relationship.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

6:14 PM Article #22:

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #22 as presented in the warrant setting the Social Service Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$11,600.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

Article #23:

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board accept Article #23 as presented in the warrant setting the Fixed Assessments Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$1,441,051.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Donhauser said that the main difference between the Budget Committee and SB is \$73,590, which again I don't understand. They took it out on revenue and administration and, now, they're putting it back in with Fixed Assessments, so,

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I'm not sure I understand that. That's the thinking behind why I'm supporting this article.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

6:15 PM Article #24:

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. McPherson, that the Select Board accept Article #24 as presented in the warrant setting the Debt Service Budget for fiscal year 2023 at \$115,270.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Donhauser said that I would like to say that Eliot is very fortunate, at the current time, to probably have the least amount of debt of any municipality in the State of Maine, to have this small amount of debt service. We're certainly in a position to take on debt for the TIF.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

6:16 PM Mr. Donhauser said that, at this time, I would like to commend the Town Manager for doing a very good job of putting a budget together in a very expedient way and in a difficult environment, with the pandemic going on and the change in personnel happening. I think that the process, from my perspective, instead of calling all those department heads in on a weekly basis over the budget

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period and grilling them over smaller amounts that didn't make a lot of sense, it was really a management decision than true a budgeting issue. The other thing I'd like to say, and it's meant as constructive criticism for the Budget Committee, I think it's inappropriate that they talk about things in their budget meetings, and I had an opportunity to view their budget meetings. An example would be that Mr. Strong (Budget Committee member) made a comment that the SB gave the Police Chief of Eliot a raise because he went and applied for a position at the Navy Yard. That is 100% false. It's a public meeting that they are holding and they are making public comments that are unsubstantiated, and for him to do that was unconscionable. Again, I think that he means well but I think that's not the appropriate place or forum to talk about things like that. The second thing is that they shouldn't be discussing personal issues. For example, whether the Town Manager should be hired, fired, or reviewed. That's totally inappropriate. They may not like the Town Manager and they may not like me. That's irrelevant. I think their purpose on the Budget Committee should be on budget items. Not on personnel matters. And they should refrain from making comments that don't reflect specifically on the budget. It would certainly serve the Town of Eliot well and, again, I mean that as constructive criticism and I respect the effort that they put into the budget. They put a lot of time in. We don't always agree. In fact, we seldom agree but, in many cases, we did this time.

6:19 PM 2) Request for appointment to EAFSC Jim Waters

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. Widi, that the Select Board appoint Jim Waters to the Eliot Agriculture and Food Security Commission for a term ending June 2023.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Donhauser said that I think it's great that we're doing this.

Mr. Sullivan said that it's one of the most exciting board meetings I ever went to. Just the energy from the farmers and mixing them with chefs, having a discussion with Mr. Sapiro from Green Acres to possibly make their commercial kitchen available in the fall to do canning and pickling and jams, and things. It's really exciting. It's great stuff and I commend you for going forward with that and putting it together. They are really an interesting group and will be meeting again April 4th. Thank you to Ms. Rawski for attending that meeting and swearing in en masse. It was a nice touch.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

SELECT BOARD MEETING
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Mr. Donhauser – Yes
Mr. McPherson - Yes
Mr. Widi – Yes
Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

3) Request for appointment to EASFC David Davison

This request was withdrawn.

6:22 PM 4) Inter-Municipal Sewer Agreement Amendment #1 (Eliot/Kittery)

Mr. Sullivan said that this isn't much different except that it increases our capacity from 200,000 gpd to 400,000 gpd, with a million-peak flow. We didn't have to do any of the cost-shifting because we are by-passing the pump station that's going to be re-built.

Mr. Widi moved, second by Ms. Dow, that the Select Board accept and endorse the Inter-Municipal Agreement Addendum #1 for reception, treatment and disposal of the Town of Eliot waste water from 200,000 gallons average flow per day to 400,000 gallons average flow per day and as expressed in the addendum.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes
Mr. McPherson - Yes
Mr. Widi – Yes
Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

6:23 PM 5) Application One-Day Alcohol Beverage License Raitt Homestead Farm Museum (2077 State Road)

Mr. Widi moved, second by Ms. Dow, that the Select Board approve a One-Day Alcohol Beverage License for Raitt Farm, 2077 State Road, for June 25, 2022 from 12PM to 6PM.

DISCUSSION

SELECT BOARD MEETING
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Mr. Donhauser said that this has been a really nice activity.

Mr. Widi said that I went last year and it was an exceptionally well-attended and exceptionally well-behaved people. It's a good thing for Eliot to have a positive social event.

DISCUSSION ENDED

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

H. Old Business:

No old business.

I. Approval of Warrant(s):

6:24 PM Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Ms. Dow, that the Select Board approve A/P Warrant #1 in the amount of \$122,166.26, dated February 28, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

J. Selectmen's Report:

Seeking Committee Members

There were no Selectmen's reports tonight.

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K. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

L. Adjourn

Mr. Donhauser moved, second by Mr. McPherson, that the Select Board adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Donhauser – Yes

Mr. McPherson - Yes

Mr. Widi – Yes

Ms. Dow - Yes

Unanimous vote to approve motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Lemire, Recording Secretary

S/ Robert McPherson, Secretary

Date approved: 05/26/2022