

**Eliot Select Board Public Hearing Thursday,
7:00 PM, October 20, 2016
Eliot Elementary School
MINUTES**

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BY: Wendy Rauski
Town Clerk

Attending: Chairman Davis, Vice Chair Fernald, Selectmen Murphy and Pomerleau, Dana lee Town Manager, Kate Pelletier, Asst. to Planning Board, Wendy Rauski, Town Clerk, Melissa Albert, Administrative Secretary, numerous members of the public.

A. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order.

B. Roll Call: The Chair declared a quorum present.

C. Pledge of Allegiance: The Chair asked the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Moment of Silence: The Chair asked for a moment of silence.

E. DISCUSSION OF TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES:

1) Article 4 – Annual Growth Permit Review a. Receive Comments & Questions

The Chair asked the Town Manager to explain the impact of a yes vote and a no vote. He explained that a yes vote would allow 30 growth permits, while a no vote would allow 23 growth permits by default (state statute). He discussed the number of people on the growth permit waiting list.

2) Article 5 – Ordinance Change, Medical Marijuana Caregivers:

The Town Manager explained that a citizen's petition had been submitted with the proper number of signatures that would allow medical marijuana caregivers to grow plants in the commercial industrial zone, subject to several limitations. A caregiver/dispensary holding a certificate in good standing would then be permittable in the Commercial/Industrial zone only with Site Plan Review by the Planning Board. A dispensary cannot operate as a home occupation and must operate on a not-for-profit basis. As a non-profit business, the assessor cannot levy personal property taxes. Additionally, the dispensary cannot be located within 500' of an existing public or private school, residential property, childcare facility, place of worship or public facility; and all cultivation must occur in a fully enclosed and locked structure. Outdoor cultivation is prohibited.

He explained that the recently submitted Citizen Petition, if approved by Eliot voters in November, will no longer require a caregiver in Eliot to hold a dispensary license or operate on a not-for-profit basis. Instead, the caregiver need only hold a caregiver license in good standing with DHHS to operate under the same provisions stated above. As a for-profit operation, the assessor could then levy personal property taxes. The petition does not seek to amend or remove any of the other requirements mentioned in the paragraph above related to siting from schools, etc. While dispensary licenses in the State are currently limited to a maximum of 8 (1 for each of the 8 designated "health districts"), caregiver licenses are not limited. A resident (Sam ?) took the podium and offered further explanation on the citizen's petition in support of it. There were several questions, some related to the state law change to legalize marijuana.

3) Article 3 – Sewer Pump Stations' Repair Bond

The Town Manager was again asked to explain the voting options. He explained that a question would be before the voters to request bonding \$1.7m to repair and upgrade 2 sewer pump stations. The debt would be repaid exclusively by sewer users over 20 years at 1.5%. He explained that a no vote would indicate that either you believe there is a better option for the pumps' repair or you disagree with the debt repayment system. One man spoke about the rise in value of south Eliot due to the sewer system and that all taxpayers have benefitted from a clean Spinney Creek.

F. Adjourn:

The Chair, seeing no more questions or comments, entertained a motion from Selectman Fernald to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm. This was seconded by Selectman Murphy and was so voted 4 – 0.

Approved 11-10-16
