

Town of Eliot  
Budget Committee Meeting  
August 13, 2019

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**Budget Committee Members:** Donna Murphy (Chair), Dennis Lentz (Secretary), Jim Tessier (vice chair) Ed Strong, Brad Hughes, Janie Wang (unable to attend due to travel).

**Call to Order:**

- Meeting was called to order @ 5:59 pm by the Chair (video streaming was used).

**Public Comment:**

- Four members of the public present. None spoke.

**Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes were not available. Decision to review next meeting (9/10/19).

**Letter from Lydia Goodwin, William Fogg Library (major statements, see the tape for details)**

- Stated purpose of the meeting was to ensure each member of the budget committee understood the answer to the question that have been asked over and over with the same answers. Each member of the Budget Committee received a letter with Q & A and acknowledged they understood. Some Q &A were a result of the April Meeting and new members of the Select Board and Budget Committee seemingly may have repeated the same questions. There was frustration aired as the expectation was that each Budget Committee member would reply back to the sender (Library Director). Most Budget Committee members replied to the Budget Committee Chair (as is the normal process.) It was stated how frustrating it is to have to answer the same questions over and over. The Budget Committee members were asked individually by the Library Director if they understood the questions/answers. All replied yes.
- Discussion began relative to the origin/purpose of the BC Sub Committee and the type of information that was shared with the BC. A statement was made that the reporting back to the Budget Committee was not totally accurate in the explanation of Library issues/answers. It was said the Budget Committee did not understand anything the Sub Committee brought back. It was stated that the Budget Committee Sub Committee caused confusion and it would be better to have the Library Director attend the Budget Committee meetings.
- It was stated that three members of the Budget Committee were rude in their conduct toward the library. Those members objected with explanation.

- Discussion continued with an overview of the BC process and citizens option impact. Statement made that two citizen option meetings showed that citizens have a desire for the Library to succeed. BC disagreed and reflected back to the actual votes.
- Support for the library, started with the statement that other towns fully funded their library, comparison to the perceived support of the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee objected to the statement and followed by saying the Budget Committee does support the library but is still looking for a business plan that was suggested last budget season. The Budget Committee is not the enemy nor is it the problem. The town entities must be responsibly funded but the library is not a town entity. The private library funding decisions must come from the voters.
- Future planning was discussed, and the statement was made that the library plan is to have the town take care of all personnel expenses and the trust will take care of the rest. The plan provides five years visibility and will be taken to the Select Board and the citizen voters each year.
- Closing statement was to put the business plan details together, meet with the SB and ask them to take it to the voters.

#### **Budget Subcommittee, William Fogg Library**

- Motion by Ed Strong, second by Brad Hughes to dissolve the Library subcommittee. Vote 5-0 to approve.

#### **Letter of resignation, Megan Weeks Zotera**

- Motion by Ed Strong, second by Brad Hughes to accept Megan Weeks-Zotera's resignation letter. Vote 5-0 to approve.
- Chair will send letter
- Motion by Ed Strong, second by Brad Hughes to not appoint to the open Budget Committee position. Vote 5-0 to approve.

#### **Goals and Objectives for the 2020/2021 fiscal year**

Decision to revisit wait until the Sept 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

- New MIL rate reported at the Select Board Meeting is 14.70, same as last year.
- New union negotiating guides lines were established.

#### **Adjournment**

- Motion by Ed Strong, second by Denny Lentz to adjourn. Vote 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

*Donna Murphy*, Chair

*Dennis F. Lentz*, Secretary

Date Approved: September 10, 2019