

## **Eliot Town Manager Report**

**January 4, 2024**

Submitted by

**Michael J. Sullivan to the Eliot Selectboard**

Honorable Select Board, this is an abridged accounting of some of the projects and issues I and the dedicated municipal staff have been working on lately for the benefit of the Town of Eliot and its citizens.

### **Happy New Year!**

The calendar has turned the page and here we are beginning 2024. I look forward to the New Year and would like to thank the Select Board for all your leadership and support. It makes difficult work more palatable. Thank you!

### **Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.**

Well, the page on the calendar for 2024 has flipped, but we continue to work on the FY 25 budget, work which started in August 2023 and will continue until the voters of Eliot participate in the final task and cast their votes in June 2024.

The referendum ballot for the budget will be much streamlined in response to the overwhelming vote in the November election which brought a measure forward to simplify the ballot. The number of articles will be reduced from twenty-three to nine, there will still be at least one public hearing (more if needed), the SB and BC recommendations will still be articulated on the ballot, and the voter will be able to vote yes or no to each of the nine articles.

The FY 25 budget information can be accessed at <https://www.eliotmaine.org/town-manager> . The material will be updated as quickly as possible when a change is made, or new information is available on the Town Manager's page. If the public has any questions, please send them to [msullivan@eliotme.org](mailto:msullivan@eliotme.org) and the question and answer will be posted on the same page.

There will be a Select Board /Budget Committee Joint Meeting/Workshop held on January 17 in Town Hall (also via Zoom and Town Hal Streams). The FY 25 budget will be a staple on the budget until it is in the final form and there will be a public hearing in April, as well.

One of my recommendations will be to approach the capital and reserve requests differently to avoid the need to raise those allocations from taxation. Instead, I would suggest for capital and other non-reoccurring cost to be satisfied by appropriating from unassigned funds held in the treasury.

As I suggested in November to re-establish the reserve funds, this method is common practice and is helpful in controlling taxation levels. Modulating increased taxes is always on top of mind when considering municipal budgeting.

### **Town Hall Project**



The Town Hall Reno is progressing with all the necessary behind-the-scenes planning that is required for a project of this nature.

There is a survey, civil, mechanical consultants working with Port City (architect) to get bid documents ready for public bid advertising.

We have reached out to some possible relocation sites for the Town Hall. We are working on plans to move and properly store important records.

We are working with vendors and subject experts to address the multitude of details remote access, security, safety, and more to see what the latest tech is on some of these needs. It also is key to us having a more accessible building.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan  
Town of Eliot, Manager