

Town of Effingham  
Budget Committee  
January 26, 2016

Present: Paul Bartoswicz, Mike Pilkovsky, Jim Morris, Leo Racine, Dave Strauss & Bill Piekut.

Excused:

Select Board Present: T. Eldridge, L. Edwards, H Spencer

1. Meeting.		Called to order 6:45 p.m.
2. Budget Committee.	Motion	To revisit selectman (SM) pay decrease. Seconded
	Discussion	Different pay rates for towns was presented and discussed. Duties of the SM were covered and noted that some duties were not being performed by the SM that had normally been performed. Noted the 1 week off SM had approved.
	Motion	Keep SM salary at 15K total. Majority approved.
3. Selectman budget for road repair/paving.	Review	Question by SM what the budget committee's (BC) intention was for calling the meeting. BC responded to see if additional funds could be obtained/moved to provide an increase in budgeted road funding.
	Discussion	<p>SM covered their road plan and projected costs for work this coming year. SM recommended that the BC consider a capital reserve in the summer road maintenance for unexpected storm damage. A number of 50k was discussed.</p> <p>Question on how current funds are handled when the town has storm damage. SM detailed this process.</p> <p>Question on money management and how the current process is being done. SM detailed this process.</p> <p>Question on placing repair/paving articles back into a special warrant article so the funds would have to be used for this purpose only. SM detailed how the current process works for them and felt this was not necessary.</p> <p>BC reviewed a spread sheet for road paving costs that had been provided by a BC member previously.</p> <p>Current projected tax rate increase of approximately \$1.40 (school \$1.10) was noted and the effect of any additional road increase would have on this.</p>

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<p>3. Selectman budget for road repair/paving. continued</p>	<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Why capital reserve fund had to be increased to 100K. SM covered work of an engineering firm that provided schedule timelines and estimated cost that would be needed to meet those timelines.</p> <p>Question if 25K could be reduce form this fund and how it would impact the timelines. SM covered the impact and did not recommend this.</p> <p>Question if cost savings could be obtained if the town did not use the state for funds or oversite. SM covered the town could do this but the state has the authority to inspect and could still close the bridge if it did not meet their standards. In addition the town’s insurance liability coverage could be affected.</p> <p>SM covered the need of a concrete plan before a final budget is put in place.</p> <p>All red flagged bridges were noted and that it was also noted the town has known for many years this would become a major problem but lack of state/local funding drove the budgets.</p> <p>It was noted that savings from the bridge trust was not practicable at this time as it would affect the needed repair timelines.</p>
	<p>Motion</p>	<p>To accept budget for repair/paving as is</p>
	<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Effect of reducing the bridge capital reserve fund. Balance of savings accounts. Providing a warrant article to the town for Granite road bridge repair.</p> <p>Majority approved.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>		<p>Adjourned at 8:07 p.m.</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>February 02, 2016 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Public meeting for proposed budget will be discussed.</p>