

Town of Effingham  
Budget Committee  
February 02, 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	Approve minutes of 1/26/2016. Majority approved
	Discussion	On provided draft articles and tax rate tables.
3. Public meeting.		Called to order 7:00 p.m
	Discussion	Order of draft articles and how they would be covered in detail.
	Article 8	No discussion
	Article 9	Public Question (PQ) concerning road specifics. Selectman (SM) covered how the funds will be used (i.e. culverts for Granite road). SM noted that due to bridge work the funds for this line item were affected this year.
	Article 10	PQ For specifics on paved road funds. SM detailed that the majority of funds would go towards crack sealing. SM noted that due to bridge work the funds for this line item were affected this year.
	Article 11	PQ if the funds in the trust balances had a designated purpose. Budget committee chair covered the expected uses. SM noted the balance for the recycle center had an error and would be corrected. SM noted the fire truck fund would expend approximately 240k for the new mini-pumper expected to be delivered this month. SM detailed the bridge trust fund covering how the costs were determined and the plan for the bridges in need of repair.
	Article 12	PQ on the 21K for municipal buildings and what the plan was for the funds. SM covered the expected usage and noted that the requested balance was the same as last year's expenditure.
Article 13	No discussions	

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<p>3. Public meeting. Continued</p>	<p>Article 14</p> <p>Article 15</p>	<p>SM covered intended usage of requested funds for the Stevens road bridge. Question concerning grammar of “raise and appropriate” in the paragraph. Determined wording met intent. PQ about balance of undesignated fund balance once the 150K was withdrawn. SM noted the fund would be midrange of what is required.</p> <p>Public request during each line item review that the budget committee note any changes made. Executive-- it was noted the committee voted to reduce selectman’s salary to 5K.</p> <p>PQ concerning funding of Tri-county. Budget committee covered the process they had used to determine all non-profit funding.</p> <p>PQ concerning general assistance. Budget committee detailed its process to review line items that are considered carry over (no changes from year to year). It was noted that prior year’s funding had not exceeded 17k. It was detailed that this assistance was state mandated and the SM could move funds if the budget was exceeded.</p> <p>PQ on what public safety changes were made. It was noted the SM had modified the police budget prior to budget committee review. This budget is less than last year’s budget. It was noted no changes were made to the requested fire budget or ambulance budget.</p> <p>Highways &amp; Streets---SM detailed various areas of the budget. It was noted the summer road budget ran over due to communication issues with the new road contractor. SM covered the issues with Molly Philbrick road and associated costs in this year’s budget.</p> <p>Parks &amp; Recreation---SM covered the amount of children involved and the value of this service to the town.</p> <p>Town Forester—It was noted this position provides funds back to the town.</p> <p>PQ on overall total compared to last year’s budget. Budget committee noted it was approximately 60K increase.</p>
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3. Public meeting. Continued	Discussion       Motion	<p>PQ on winter road contractor usage of electricity at the salt shed. SM noted that this usage is in the contract.</p> <p>PQ if anyone would be bringing up changes at the town meeting. They felt speaking up now would give the budget committee a chance to address the issue before hand. No response.</p> <p>Covered previous increases and how it affects overall tax rates. Detailed that the 60K budget increase would add approximately 32 cents to the tax rate. Noted the expected increase in the school rate was \$1.06.</p> <p>For Adjournment of public meeting Majority approved.</p>
Adjournment		Adjourned at 7:52 p.m.
4. Budget Committee.	Discussion  Motion  Discussion    Motion  Discussion	<p>Additional meetings needed.</p> <p>To discuss budget that was presented. Motion seconded</p> <p>Issue with Article 15 as presented. Items were not listed the same as what was presented to the budget committee. This made it difficult to do a cross check of figures. SM noted items were grouped to assist the voter.</p> <p>Concerning the 60K increase and its impact on the tax rate. It was felt somewhere in the bridge fund increase this could have been absorbed. SM noted the need for the requested bridge funds.</p> <p>Caps on trust funds were considered.</p> <p>To approve Draft Town Warrant Figures Majority approved.</p> <p>Meeting for signing state MS-7 form. Decided 2/8/2016 at 6:45 P.M.</p> <p>Concerning additional meeting in late March to pick committee chair and develop a schedule for next year. The selectman's portion was always last to the committee and portions could possibly be submitted earlier. It was felt this would help improve the process.</p>

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4. Budget Committee. Continued	Motion	To hold a March 29 <sup>th</sup> meeting. Noting chair was up for re-election and vice chair might have to hold meeting. Majority approved.
Adjournment		Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
Next Meeting	February 08, 2016 6:45 p.m.	Signing of MS-7.