

Town of Effingham
Budget Committee
August 8, 2017

Present: Jim Morris, Paul Bartoswicz, Leo Racine, Dave Strauss, Mellisa Seamans & Jory Augenti

Excused:

Absent:

Select Board (SB) Present: John Meisner (Budget Rep.), Lenny Espie

Other(s) Present: Town Admin(TA) Claudia Lamphier, Town Admin Asst(TAA) Cheryl Feirick.

1. Meeting		Called to order 6:30 p.m.
2. Approval	Motion	Approve minutes of 6/6/17. Second Majority approved
3. Budget Committee	Budget to Actual review	<p>Overall postage percentage spent was a concern. The TA pointed out that departments purchase this ahead. She stated postage is not expected to exceed budgets.</p> <p>4210-Police Question concerning the equipment line at 89.8% when most items should be in the 60 to 65% range. It was pointed out that some of cost could be due to the outfit cost of the new cruiser. TA will review this item.</p> <p>Question concerning Vehicle maintenance at 86%. TA noted that the chief has one cruiser the sergeant has one cruiser and the oldest cruiser rotates to the part time officers. Budget members were surprised that town is maintaining three cruisers. Budget Committee (BC) pointed out 3 cruisers were not in the approved budget. Select Board (SB) noted that the chief had requested this arrangement and the board had approved it.</p> <p>4583 Patriotic Purposes Question on the 103% and if additional expenses were expected. TA did not expect additional costs. Question if the Veteran memorial was included in this line item and the TA responded it was not.</p> <p>4611.2 Conservation Commission Question on the 354.8% and reimbursement. TA detailed the process.</p>
	Budget sheets	<p>The TA explained that the provided sheets to each department/committee had the original requested 2017 amounts on them and not the final amount that the BC approved.</p> <p>The BC will verify the 2017 amounts on each department/committee's submitted budget sheet before review.</p>

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3. Budget Committee continued	BC budget	Discussed the BC budget and decided to maintain the same request as the previous year.
	Motion	To fund the BC at \$320 Second Majority approved
	GWRSD revenue sheet	BC reviewed the payment to the school district with no comments.
	SB office revenue sheet	Noted that the sheet was updated 8/8/17. TA noted that metal was lower due to the decreased cost per pound.
	Tax deeded property sheet	Discussed the spread sheet and the SB plan to put the properties back on the tax base. Noted total amount of assessment for the deeded properties was \$717,500 which had the potential for approximately \$145,000 yearly revenue increase to the town.
	SB letter	Discussed the letter sent to the SB dated April 18, 2017. The first concern was the employee raises by cost of living/merit. SB members detailed that they have agreed for cost of living to use the COLA's for the area up to a maximum of 2%. For merit pay they have agreed to a maximum of 2% based on employee evaluation. The BC chair had a concern how this information would be sent to the department/committees prior to budget submittal. SB stated they will provide each the information. Discussed salaries of our employees compared to other towns. It was stated that the Library was not bound by the SB policy for raises. The second concern was the SB adopting the BC recommendation on recording /publishing the vote count for each budget. SB members agreed to record /publish the vote count for each budget during their review process.

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3. Budget Committee continued	Budget schedule Motion	Reviewed draft schedule and agreed to adopt it as written. Will decide at a later date for the overall and public meeting dates. To Adjourn Second Majority approved
Adjournment		Adjourned at 7:46 p.m.
Next Meeting	September 19, 2017 6:30 p.m.	Planning Board, ZBA, Budget and Historic District budgets will be discussed. Any other business which may arise.