

Town of Effingham
Budget Committee
October 10, 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. Office Asst. (OA) Cheryle Feirick.

Fire: Dept.(FD) Randy Burbank, Fire Warden (FW): Richard Thompson.

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| 1. Meeting | | Called to order 6:30 p.m. |
| 2. Approval | Motion | Approve minutes of 9/26/17. Second Majority approved |
| 3. Budget Committee | Discussion | Chair brought up the issue of providing the draft budgets to the public prior to our meeting. It was decided to ask the web site developer if draft copies could be made available on-line. |
| 4. Fire Warden budget | Motion | To accept the \$5000 budget for discussion. Second |
| | Discussion | Question concerning the Equipment/Repair/Maint. Line item increase. FW detailed the purchase of the Forrest truck and that some outfitting of gear was still required. Additionally the truck is going to be painted. Question about last year's budget for this Line item being increased \$1000 for the purchase of the truck and now it is still \$1000 over with an additional \$500 added. FW explained it was the painting and outfitting of gear. He expected that next year's budget this line item would be reduced back. Question on usage of the old truck. FW explained it will go back to the state and the equipment that was on it is being refurbished for this truck as much as possible |
| | Motion | To accept budget as submitted. Second |
| | Motion Vote: | Jim M- yes /Paul B-yes/Leo R-yes/Dave S-yes/Mellisa S-yes Jory A-yes/John M-yes Motion passes 7-0 |
| 5. Emergency Mgmt budget | Motion | To accept the \$1510 budget for discussion. Second |
| | Discussion | Noted the budget is not requesting an increase this year. Question on the cost for generator maintenance. FD stated the three generators cost about \$1400/year. |

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| 5. Emergency Mgmt budget continued | <p>Motion</p> <p>Motion Vote:</p> | <p>To accept budget as submitted. Second</p> <p>Jim M- yes /Paul B-yes/Leo R-yes/Dave S-yes/Mellisa S-yes Jory A-yes/John M-yes</p> <p>Motion passes 7-0</p> |
| 6. Fire Dept. budget | <p>Motion</p> <p>Discussion</p> | <p>To accept the \$80,800 budget for discussion. Second</p> <p>Question on mutual aid dues. FD noted an increase up to \$6K from \$5K this year.</p> <p>Question on how towns pay for the mutual aid. FD noted each town pays an equal share.</p> <p>Question on amount of calls. FD stated that to date they had 196 calls of which 85 were fire related. Slightly up from last year.</p> <p>Question on large request for radios. FD noted that they did not get the requested grant from last year. He also detailed a new alert system using the cell phone which is \$250/year.</p> <p>Question on cell tower strength for the cell phone alert system. FD noted part of the fee was a signal booster at the fire station.</p> <p>Question if he had the SB review his budget prior to our meeting. FD noted that the SB had not reviewed the budget prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Question Truck/Equip. Maint. Line item. The line item had been reduced to \$18K from \$20K last year by the SB and was now back to \$20K. He was asked to detail the increase. FD noted that to date \$13K had been spent and truck maint. problems/certifications are still on going. He felt this was a good number and another month he would have a better idea of the exact cost.</p> <p>Question concerning usage of Capital reserve fund/Trust fund designated for fire equipment and why that is not being used for radios or equipment on the requested budget. FD noted they are putting in for another grant this year and want to use the trust fund balance for that purpose.</p> |

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| 6. Fire Dept. budget continued | Discussion | <p>Question on Fire Association. FD noted it is still active and it raises funds for scholarships and gear.</p> <p>Question on firefighter compensation. FD note it has two new members and to date \$17K has been spent. He also noted calls are up this year.</p> <p>Question on the compensation per call as it was noted surrounding towns have a different pay structure. FD noted they had not looked at a different pay structure but felt anything different would most likely be more costly.</p> |
| | Motion | To accept budget as submitted. Second |
| | Motion Vote: | Jim M- yes /Paul B-yes/Leo R-yes/Dave S-yes/Mellisa S-yes Jory A-yes/John M-yes |
| | | Motion passes 7-0 |
| 7. Budget Committee | Discussion | <p>Question about the Budget to Actual having line item 4901 Capital Outlay Twn hall/Library fire protection (\$6,000). Noted last BC meeting the TA was going to move or remove this line item as it added to the overall budget. Concern was raised if the \$6K was deducted from 4916 Trust Fund Municipal buildings or 4194 Municipal Building (Bldg Maint.). TA stated the 4901 charge had been deleted from the Budget to Actual and was deducted from line item 4194.</p> <p>Question if the tax rate had been set and no one present at the meeting had knowledge if it had been.</p> |
| Adjournment | Motion | To Adjourn. Second Majority approved Adjourned at 7:14 p.m. |
| Next Meeting | October 17, 2017 6:30 p.m. | Police and Dog Officer will be discussed. Any other business which may arise. |