

Town of Effingham
Budget Committee
September 19, 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 Asst(TAA) Cheryl Feirick. Planning Board Chair Theresa Swanick, Mike Cahalane. Conserv. Comm. Chair Elaine Chick, Sandy Finn, Erik Jones. ZBA Chair Mike Cahalane.

1. Meeting		Called to order 6:37 p.m.
2. Approval	Motion	Approve minutes of 8/8/17. Second Majority approved
3. Budget Committee	Discussion	Chair noted that requested additional police cruiser maintenance costs from the Town Admin. was not received.
4. Planning Board budget	Motion	To accept budget for discussion. Second
	Discussion	Reviewed submitted budget and requested Chair to explain the large increase (13%). Planning Board (PB) Chair noted previous recording secretary. did not submit all charges. Additionally the pay for this position was compared to surrounding towns and increased to \$17 from \$15. PB Chair covered each line item and a question on the number of seminars attended last year was asked. She stated six seminars were attended and also it was noted approximately \$63 dollars in travel cost for each. A question was asked about the usage of the trust fund being used for the Professional service line item as this was discussed in last year's budget minutes as a possibility. It was stated this was explored and was not an authorized usage of the funds. A question was asked to detail Computer services. PB Chair covered that the conversion to digital was ongoing. She noted that ZBA/Planning boards are sharing these costs.
	Motion	To accept budget as submitted. Second
	Motion Vote:	Jim M-Abstain/Paul B-yes/Leo R-no/Dave S-yes/ Mellisa S-yes/Jory A-yes/John M-yes
		Motion passes 5-1

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5. Historic District Comm. budget	Motion	To accept budget for discussion. Second
	Discussion	<p>Covered previous budget amounts and noted the large increase last year and this year. It was requested the Chair detail the reasons for the large increase (46%).</p> <p>Chair explained that they are expecting 3 new members and the cost for training/books/travel was a large increase, additionally a computer was added for record keeping. She noted that printing and office supplies had caused an increase. The commission is asking \$502 for the computer and it was noted that a yearly cost would be added to future budgets for the software/antivirus.</p> <p>Budget Comm. (BC) Discussed in length the issues of each board/commission having a computer and its use.</p>
	Motion	To amend submitted budget of \$2137 to \$1635. Second
	Discussion	<p>SelectBoard (SB) member questioned line item removals by the BC. The BC chair clarified that it is a bottom line adjustment not a line item removal as authorized by the RSA. It was suggested the SB should have a computer policy for each board/commission for guidance.</p>
	Motion Vote:	<p>Jim M-Abstain/Paul B-yes/Leo R-yes/Dave S-no/ Mellisa S-yes/Jory A-no/John M-yes</p> <p>Motion passes 4-2</p>
6. ZBA budget	Motion	To accept budget for discussion. Second
	Discussion	<p>ZBA Chair detailed the \$425 increase (20%) noting that the majority of cost came from the salary increase the same as the Planning Board. He also stated the PB and the ZBA are sharing costs for computer usage which helps keep the bottom line down.</p> <p>A question was asked where the computer funds for purchase came from as this was not in last year's budget. He stated that it was excess funds from his board and the PB.</p>
	Motion	To accept budget as submitted. Second
	Motion Vote:	<p>Jim M-Abstain/Paul B-yes/Leo R-yes/Dave S-yes/ Mellisa S-yes/Jory A-yes/John M-yes</p> <p>Motion passes 6-0</p>

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3. Budget Committee Budget	Motion	To accept budget for discussion. Second
	Discussion	It was noted by the Chair that no members attended the budget workshops last year.
	Motion	Reduce workshop and mileage line items to \$1.
	Discussion	Noted that 2 members are up for reelection and training should be offered next year in the budget.
	Motion Vote:	Jim M-Abstain/Paul B-no/Leo R-yes/Dave S-no/ Mellisa S-no/Jory A-no/John M-no Motion does not pass 5-1
	Motion	Reduce workshop to \$80 reducing budget total to \$240.
	Discussion	This would allow one member to attend training.
	Motion Vote:	Jim M-Abstain/Paul B-yes/Leo R-no/Dave S-yes/ Mellisa S-yes/Jory A-yes/John M-yes Motion passes 5-1
Adjournment	Motion	To Adjourn. Second Majority approved Adjourned at 8:16 p.m.
Next Meeting	September 26, 2017 6:30 p.m.	Conservation Commission, Treasurer, ZEO, Trustee of trust funds and Town Forrester will be discussed. Any other business which may arise.