

Town of Effingham
Budget Committee
September 26, 2017

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

Excused: Leo Racine

Absent:

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

Other(s) Present: Forrester Jeff Libby, ZEO Rebecca Boyden, Conser. Comm. Emelyn Albert.

1. Meeting		Called to order 6:38 p.m.
2. Approval	Motion	Approve minutes of 9/19/17. Second Majority approved
3. Budget Committee	Discussion	Chair abstaining from budget votes. Budget Comm. (BC) noted the request for the Select Board (SB) to review all budgets before submittal to the BC had not been done.
4. Forester budget	Motion	To accept the \$1000 budget for discussion. Second
	Discussion	Mr. Libby gave an overview of what his job entails. Question on town owned property management plan. Mr. Libby detailed the pros and cons of a plan. Question on any untapped money the town might gain if a harvest was performed. He pointed out most of our town land with large acreage had been harvested.
	Motion	To accept budget as submitted. Second
	Motion Vote:	Jim M-yes/Paul B-yes/Dave S-yes/ Mellisa S-yes/Jory A-yes/John M-yes Motion passes 6-0
5. Trustee of Trust funds budget	Motion	To accept SB 2017 budget of \$300 for discussion. Second
	Discussion	Noted a formal budget was not submitted as this is a SB line item. The BC did request a formal budget. No Trustees of the Trust fund were present but were notified.
	Motion	To accept budget of \$300. Second
	Motion Vote:	Jim M-yes/Paul B-yes/Dave S-yes/ Mellisa S-yes/Jory A-yes/John M-yes Motion passes 6-0

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6. ZEO budget	Motion	To accept budget for discussion. Second
	Discussion	<p>Budget presented to the BC prior to the meeting did not have a salary listed. BC was handed a new Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) budget prior to discussion.</p> <p>Question on why salary line increased from \$9,940 to \$15,966 (37.7% increase). 12 hour per week increase from the 2017 budget of 8 per week.</p> <p>ZEO pointed out required hour increase for land use board attendance. She also pointed out the SB direction for enforcement will cause an increase.</p> <p>SB members pointed out the town attorney and the SB had determined the desired/required work of the ZEO could not be performed in the allotted hours.</p> <p>It was pointed out the 1300 dollar increase for 2017 was justified for land use board attendance. ZEO responded that the increase last year was not for both boards.</p> <p>Public (Chair of ZBA) responded that he did not expect the presence of the ZEO was going to change from previous years. Covered the hours required by the ZEO (8/week) and noted 1.5 hrs for office work, 1 hr for meetings, 1 hr for other, 4.5 Road an office work. Some BC members felt this was not adequate.</p>
	Motion	Amend requested budget to 10 hours per week which would support an overall budget of \$14,805. Seconded.
	Discussion	Noted this was still an increase of over 22%. It was stated the SB felt the larger increase was warranted and this was a reasonable compromise.
	Motion Vote:	<p>To accept budget as amended. Second</p> <p>Jim M-yes/Paul B-yes/Mellisa S-yes/John M-yes Dave S-Recuse/ Jory A-Recuse Motion passes 4-0</p>
7. Conservation Committee budget	Motion	To accept budget for discussion. Second
	Discussion	<p>Noted budget request was an 18.4% increase.</p> <p>Question on picnic table and location, Emelyn provided the details.</p> <p>Question on fund balance and restriction on funds usage.</p>

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7. Conservation Committee Budget continued	Discussion	Emelyn stated that the fund balance has \$21,637 and that \$10,000 must be subtracted due to the Pine river purchase. She also informed the BC that the funds had no restrictions on usage for land purchase or improvement. Question if some of the funds could absorb the large requested increase. She stated that this was possible.
	Motion	Amend requested budget to \$4000. Seconded.
	Discussion	Question was asked if the commission could live with this reduction (\$665). She indicated that this was workable.
	Motion Vote:	To accept budget as amended. Second Jim M-yes/Paul B-yes/Dave S-yes/ Mellisa S-yes/Jory A-yes/John M-yes
	:	Motion passes 6-0
8. Budget Committee	Discussion	Covered what budgets will be done next week. Noted the Treasurer will have to be added back to the schedule and the Chair will obtain the date. It was requested to have the Trustees of the trust fund at the BC public hearing. It was noted we have not scheduled a date for the public hearing. Discussion on the transfer station budget being submitted separate from the SB budget. SB member stated the transfer station employees do not submit a budget like the police department as the police have it in their job description. SB member will have a budget for the transfer station to the BC on the date scheduled. Question if the ZEO had budget preparation in her job description, SB member stated she did not. Question on Marist update and it was noted that they had appealed and it was in the state supreme court.
Adjournment	Motion	To Adjourn. Second Majority approved Adjourned at 7:42 p.m.
Next Meeting	October 03, 2017 6:30 p.m.	Town clerk, Tax collector & Supervisor of the check list will be discussed. Any other business which may arise.