

Town of Effingham

Budget Committee

October 24, 2017

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Effingham Municipal Office Bldg.
Members Present: Jim Morris, Paul Bartoswicz, Leo Racine, Jory Augenti, Mellisa Seamans, John Meisner (Selectmen's Rep)
Members Absent: David Strauss (Excused)
Town Officials Present: Selectman Lenny Espie, TA Claudia Lamphier, AA Cheryle Fierick
Minutes By: Mellisa Seamans

MOTION: "To approve the October 10, 2017 meeting minutes as written" **Passed 6-0**

MOTION: "To recommend the transfer station budget of \$154,100" **Failed 3-3** (Morris, Bartoswicz, Meisner in favor with Racine, Seamans, Augenti opposed)

- Lengthy discussion about increase in salary line. All town employees will receive a \$1 per hour salary increase in the 2018 budget. The transfer station will no longer have summer and winter hours but rather the same operating hours year-round. There are 15 additional work hours per week added to the 2018 budget for the additional operating hours. The extended hours began October 2017). There is enough money remaining in the 2017 salary line to cover the increase in weekly hours for Oct. – Dec. 2017. In 2016, the facility was open 1,092 hours. In 2017, the facility will be open 1,222 hours.
- Landfill monitoring expense will continue annually until 2025.
- Discussion regarding the new fees that will be charged to customers for freon-containing appliances and for appliances. From August 2016 to April 2017, 64 freon units were collected; April 2017 to present "more than 50." The charge for freon units will be \$20 and appliances \$10. The cost of permit will remain at \$1.
- In 2016, \$3,137.13 revenue was received from sale of metal, permits and fees for tire and electronic component disposal. Question if a trust fund could be created for future improvements at the transfer station and if proceeds from this revenue line could be deposited into it. Consensus that this minimal amount collected would not be worth creating a separate account.
- Members who opposed this motion stated concern about not receiving this budget prior to the meeting date to allow time for review. The transfer station budget is postponed until the 10/31/17 meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Membership expressed frustration with this years' budget process and adherence to NH RSA 32:17. Several budgets have been sent to the committee without first being complete, reviewed and recommended by selectmen. The committee is not receiving all budgets and supplemental information in a timely and complete manner to allow for review prior to meetings.

Meeting adjourned on unanimous voice vote at 7:45.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

October 31 Transfer Station, Roads & Bridges
November 7 Road & Bridges (continued if necessary), police department, library
November 14 General Assistance
November 21 Outside Agencies
November 28 Board of Selectmen-Administration