

Town of Effingham
Budget Committee
November 14, 2017

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

Excused:

Absent:

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

Other(s) Present:

1. Meeting		Called to order 6:30 p.m.
2. Approval	Motion	Approve minutes of 11/07/17. Second Discussed the \$7500 which was part of the \$217,000 for the road budget. Majority approved
3. Budget Committee	Motion	To revisit last week's road budget 4312 and reduce the \$217,500 for the Green Mountain road reconstruction plan to \$210,000. Second
	Discussion	It was noted that the \$217,500 that was removed from the budget should have had \$7,500 left in place for yearly crack sealing. The remaining \$210,000 is what was expected to go before the town by warrant article for the Green Mountain road reconstruction plan.
	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
	Discussion	Question on why 4312 road budget line item Road Maint. Contractor increased \$10,000? It was noted in 2015 the budget was \$64,528.50 in 2016 \$76,000 and requested for this year is \$86,000. It was stated that 2016 increase was due to problems with cost overruns. SelectBoard (SB) chair detailed that the current budget which had \$11,000 left was used on the recent storm damage. The increase was slated to cover the expected work on the 41 culverts per the culvert replacement plan. RSA 32:4 and RSA 32:17 were read detailing that all budgets must go thru the governing body which is our SB. It was stated that these RSA's make it clear the SB must receive and review all budgets before sending them to the Budget Committee (BC). It was suggested that if next year's budgets have not been reviewed by the SB for the mid October budget review schedule that the BC consider approving a default budget.

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3. Budget Committee continued	Discussion	<p>SB chair asked how to document the reviews and what was the expected schedule. It was stated previous SB reviewed budgets had the SB changes/reviews on the budget sheets. SB chair requested the budget schedule be issued at least a one month prior to need. It was noted the BC had this year's budget published August 8th.</p> <p>Question if the votes we take for each budget is binding? It was stated that the final vote for approval of the budgets is at the public meeting and budgets can change up to that point.</p> <p>Question on the state funds received per SB-38 (\$69,000 plus) and if the need to raise and appropriate the funds would be needed? SB rep. and chair stated they will look in this.</p> <p>Question if we did not receive the SB-38 funds where on the budget would this money be added? SB rep. stated in the road reconstruction line.</p> <p>A detailed overall town budget spread sheet was presented to the BC. It showed what had been approved to date and if the remaining items were level funded the overall town budget would see an approximate \$31,000 increase. It was noted some factors could increase this.</p>
4. Welfare budget	Discussion	<p>It was noted that no budget was provided even though this date has been on the budget schedule since August.</p> <p>Last year's welfare budget was \$14,000 and currently the budget has \$6,246 remaining.</p>
	Motion	<p>To fund 4442 General Assistance at \$8,000.</p> <p>Second</p>
	Discussion	<p>Question on the reasoning for the decrease? It was stated that this line item has to be funded by the town. Previous large overruns have happened in the budget such as roads/legal and funds were found to cover those cost overruns.</p> <p>It was debated on the level of funding and if it was sufficient.</p>
	Motion	<p>To amend the \$8,000 to \$10,000.</p> <p>Second.</p>
	Discussion	<p>Some members wanted to see the Welfare officer at the meeting to discuss items. The various reasons for the absence were debated.</p>

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4. Welfare budget continued	Discussion	It was noted unused funds are transferred to the unreserved fund balance and last few years that has happened. All members support the Welfare office and trying not to overfund the budget was the goal of the discussion.
	Motion Vote Amend to 10K:	Jim M- no /Paul B-yes/Leo R-no/Dave S-no/Mellisa S-no Jory A-yes/John M-no Motion failed 5-2
	Motion Vote for 8K.	Jim M- yes /Paul B-no/Leo R-yes/Dave S-no/Mellisa S-yes Jory A-no/John M-no Motion failed 4-3
	Motion	Fund at \$14,000 and revisit later. No second.
	Discussion	On the path forward if the BC cannot decide on a budget.
	Motion	Fund at \$12,000. Second.
	Motion Vote for 12K.	Jim M- no /Paul B-yes/Leo R-no/Dave S-yes/Mellisa S-no Jory A-no/John M-no Motion failed 5-2
	Discussion	On expectations for a reasonable budget.
	Motion	Fund at \$10,000. Second.
	Motion Vote for 10K	Jim M- yes /Paul B-yes/Leo R-yes/Dave S-yes/Mellisa S-yes Jory A-yes/John M-no Motion passes 6/1
5. Transfer station budget	Motion	To accept the submitted budget for discussion. Second
	Discussion	Discussed the salaries and the wages of the current department. It was noted the low pay was \$10.10 per/hour and the high pay was \$15.69 per hour. The transfer station has four employees and only three are working at any one time.

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5. Transfer station budget	Discussion	<p>The hours of operation are 3 days a week with 8 hours per day of operation. It was noted the town pays for all the employees training and attendance.</p> <p>It was reiterated that having a written town policy on raises would eliminate confusion on providing raises.</p> <p>Noted that if the employee's received a \$1 raise it would be \$4500 salary increase and the budget was asking for \$3600.</p>
	Motion	<p>To accept submitted budget of \$61,650 for 4323 solid waste collection. Second</p>
	Motion Vote	<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>
	Motion	<p>To accept submitted budget of \$89,000 for 4324 solid waste disposal. Second</p>
	Motion Vote	<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>
	Motion	<p>To accept submitted budget of \$3,750 for 4325 solid waste clean up. Second</p>
	Motion Vote	<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>

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6. Budget Committee	Discussion	<p>BC felt debated if the police salaries were in the scope of the meeting even though no vote was going to be taken. A member felt that the Chief should be present if we were doing any discussions. It was noted that we had the full SB present and they determine his salary.</p> <p>It was presented that between the last two years the department had received 12% in pay raises. The SB chair noted that this was to bring our department up to competing departments and felt to keep good people we have to offer a competitive wage.</p> <p>When comparing the budget sheet 2016 salary to 2017 requested salary it showed that the Chief was getting a 7.6% raise and the Sargent was getting a 8% raise. It was noted that the amount on 2016 salary did not match what was on the Budget to Actual sheet (BtoA).</p> <p>The BtoA had the Chief listed at \$69,594 not \$66,885. The Sargent was listed at \$57,975 not \$55,744. These differences had the salary increase at 3.4% for the Chief and 4% for the Sargent. No increase was requested for the secretary.</p> <p>Dissatisfaction was expressed at the number differences between the submitted budget sheet and the BtoA. SB rep. noted that the salary increases were approved at town meeting.</p> <p>Noted that three Non-Profits from last year had not submitted a request.</p> <p>:</p> <p>Question if the office had missed submitting them to the BC. SB rep. will check into this.</p> <p>Question if Non-Profits were notified of the meeting next week. SB chair believed they had been. The SB rep. and chair will check into notifications.</p> <p>Question if the SB had reviewed the Non-Profit requests. The SB rep. and chair indicated they had not but were planning to.</p>
Adjournment	Motion	<p>To Adjourn. Second Majority approved Adjourned at 8:02 p.m.</p>
Next Meeting	November 21, 2017 6:30 p.m.	<p>Non-Profits and Police salaries will be discussed. Any other business which may arise.</p>