

Town of Effingham
Budget Committee
January 23, 2018

Present: Jim Morris, Leo Racine, Dave Strauss & Mellisa Seamans

Excused: Jory Augenti.

Absent:

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

Other(s) Present: Admin Asst. (AA) Cheryle Feirick, Town Moderator Susan Slack, Fire Chief Randy Burbank.

1. Meeting		Called to order 6:30 p.m.
2. Approval	Motion	Approve minutes of 1/09/18. Second
	Motion Vote:	Motion passes 5-0
3 Budget Committee	Discussion	Chair updated the committee on Mr. Bartoswicz submittal to resign from the Budget Committee (BC). He read the letter to the committee and asked for questions. It was noted his loss would be felt due to his extensive knowledge.
	Motion	To accept resignation Second
	Motion Vote	Passes 5-0
4. Town Moderator	Discussion	<p>Chair thanked Ms. Slack for her presence and assistance to meet with the board to discuss the BC budget and the town warrant article.</p> <p>She provided information that the budget presented to the town via the warrant is the BC numbers.</p> <p>The rules per the RSA were discussed on how they apply to presenting the budget.</p> <p>The 10% rule was debated and how warrant articles affect this limit.</p> <p>She noted that it is the Select Boards (SB) function to put together the warrant article presented to the town. The money articles are the BC responsibility and all others are the SB responsibility.</p> <p>It was asked how the BC recorded votes get into the warrant article? She noted that per the RSA 32 the SB can vote to include them or a warrant article can be presented to the town to ask they be required.</p> <p>SB representative provided info about a web based training on 1/24 for budget issues.</p> <p>Public asked if an article presented was adopted and put us over the 10% limit would that stop the process, she stated that it would stop on that article and people are assigned at the meeting to keep track of the limit.</p>

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5. Fire Chief	Discussion	<p>Chair thanked Mr. Burbank for meeting with the board to discuss the warrant article request.</p> <p>It was noted the current approved fire department budget was \$138,534 which includes the ambulance contract.</p> <p>The Chief detailed the need for \$13,000 to replace the existing jaws of life tool. He noted three companies provide this equipment and if approved he would investigate all three to obtain the best deal.</p> <p>It was asked why this was not requested via the grant program? The chief felt that this was a low priority item and did not have a good chance of being awarded. He noted that next year he is submitting a grant for air packs.</p> <p>The current Expendable Trust (ET) fund for fire equipment has a balance of \$9,000. The Chief stated he submitted a grant request for radios and if approved it would take \$3,400 from this fund.</p> <p>The Chief was asked why the remaining \$5,600 could not be used for the \$13,000 warrant article request?</p> <p>After debate it was determined that this ET needed to maintain a balance to cover equipment failure and taking \$5,000 would not leave the ET sufficiently funded.</p> <p>The SB representative asked the Chief for his opinion on usage of the Emergency/Disaster ET as he was the Chief officer. The Chief covered his thoughts on this subject and it was determined that if a disaster was submitted to FEMA it met the intent for usage of these funds.</p>
6. Budget Committee	Discussion	<p>Chair handed out a sheet detailing the 2017/2018 town employee salaries.</p> <p>Discussed the spreadsheet and if the line items were sufficiently funded.</p> <p>SB personnel policy handling raises approved at the March meeting to start in April (not retroactive to January 1st) was discussed.</p> <p>It was determined a majority of the BC would like to see retroactive pay vice the current method. This would assist the BC in the preparation. A request to change the policy was asked to the SB representative and SB member present. They will present the request to the SB board.</p> <p>Covered current BC approved totals (\$1,903,261.50) noting it does not include the \$13,000 request above.</p>

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6. Budget Committee Continued	Discussion	Debated how the warrant article to be presented at the town meeting would be presented. A question if the Chair wanted all requests from the office to go thru the chair? He responded that he would like all requests to go thru him as this would minimize the office disruption.
Adjournment	Motion	To Adjourn. Second Majority approved Adjourned at 7:58 p.m.
Next Meeting	February 06, 2017 6:30 p.m.	Budget Vs Actual, Warrant article review and other business that may arise.