

Town of Effingham  
Budget Committee  
February 20, 2018

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

Excused: Jory Augenti.

Absent:

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

Other(s) Present: Town Admin (TA) Claudia Lamphier, Admin Asst. (AA) Cheryle Feirick.

1. Meeting		Called to order 6:32 p.m.
2. Approval	Motion	Approve minutes of 2/13/18. Second
	Motion Vote:	Motion passes 5-0
3 Budget Committee	Discussion	Chair covered the general operating warrant article 34 and desired layout to the public. Pertaining to the public meeting of 02-06-18 the Chair noted and read RSA 32:5 II which states "budget committee shall not thereafter insert, in any budget column or special warrant article, an additional amount or purpose of appropriation which was not disclosed or discussed at that hearing, without first holding one or more public hearings on supplemental budget requests for town or district expenditures."
		Debated the public meeting comments and agreed to review each article that had comments individually.
	Article 16	<b>Police cruiser &amp; cruiser equipment CRF.</b> Noted the trustee addition and debated to amend. TA had amended wording which has \$10,869 being funded from the unreserved fund balance vice taxation. Noted possible changes were discussed at the public meeting.
	Motion	To move as amended Second
	Motion Vote	Motion Passes 5-0
	Article 19	<b>Library equipment ETF.</b> Debated the reasoning for not recommending and the public comment and decided not to change.
	Article 31	<b>Family Resource Center @ Children Unlimited, Inc.</b> Discussed the possibility of the addition of remarks being added to the warrant as the town moderation suggested in a previous meeting. TA noted DRA had informed her that this was not allowed. Debated the RSA wording on warrants and the DRA intent. Agreed additional info is needed before adding the remarks and decided not to change.

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3 Budget Committee (Continued)	Article 34	<p><b>General Operations:</b> Debated the interpretation of RSA 32:5 IV showing recommended appropriations &amp; comparative columns. TA detailed that the DRA informed her the addition was not allowed on the warrant but the information will be on the state form which is posted and printed. It was noted that other towns do have the comparative columns and vote totals in their warrants. Agreed additional info is needed.</p> <p><b>Health Agencies—(Red Cross).</b> Discussed public comments. Covered the BC reasoning for not funding and decided not to change.</p> <p><b>Library---</b> Discussed public comments. Covered the BC reasoning for budget reduction and decided not to change.</p> <p><b>General Assistance---</b>BC was informed that the welfare officer had received 5 more applications for assistance which was not anticipated. Debated the agreed budget amount and the public comments. Noted history of expenditures and state RSA requiring funding.</p>
	Motion	To increase budget to \$14,000 Second
	Motion Vote	Motion Fails 3-2
		<p><b>Financial Administration---(Budget Committee)</b> Debated public comments on the increasing funding for training noting the committee could have 3 new members.</p>
	Motion	To increase budget to \$130 Second
	Discussion	This total would provide training for 2 members. It was noted that the SB workshop line item was under budget by \$400 last year. The TA was asked if the committee's budget ran over for training could the workshop line item be used if needed. She confirmed it could be if a balance was available.
	Motion Vote	<p>Motion Fails 3-2</p> <p>Discussed the possible need for a budget line item for a paid recording secretary the same as ZBA and planning board. Debated the pros and cons of having a paid position.</p>

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3 Budget Committee (Continued)	Article 34 Continued	<p><b>Police---</b>Discussed the BC raise of 1\$ per hour for the Chief and 2% for SGT and part time officers. SB chair informed the BC that the intent was a 1\$ per hour raise for all. Debated who were SB employees and the definition of “merit”. BC members voiced concern about the lack of the SB having a written policy as the belief was the SB set raises at 2% for cost of living and up to 1\$ total per hour if they met a merit performance. SB did not feel this was the intent, it was pointed out that SB meetings which are taped and BC previous minutes did have this expectation. A concern was raised that not providing the 1\$ to the SGT and part time officers was in effect causing them harm due to the raise policy disagreement. Debated this point and the intent of the unwritten policy.</p>
	Motion	To restore Police budget back to \$186,395 (1\$ raise for all).
	Motion Vote	Motion Fails 3-2
	State form MS-737	<p>Provided TA with information for the state form, reviewed/commented on the provided draft.</p> <p>After adjustments it was determined:</p> <p>Revenues \$576,169.</p> <p>Total Appropriations \$1,894,110</p> <p>Estimated taxes to be raised \$1,317,941</p> <p>All BC members signed the MS-737 and received copies.</p>
Adjournment	Motion	To Adjourn. Second Majority approved Adjourned at 10:08 p.m.
Next Meeting	April 03, 2018 6:30 p.m.	Budget Vs Actual review, elect committee Chair/Vice Chair/Recording secretary and other business that may arise.