

## Town of Effingham

Budget Committee

November 13, 2018

Call to Order: 6:34 p.m.  
Location: Effingham Municipal Office Building  
Members Present: David Strauss, Leo Racine, Mellisa Seamans, Chuck Fuller, Tim Eldridge, Lenny Espie (Selectmen's Rep)  
Members Absent: Jory Augenti (Excused)  
Minutes By: Mellisa Seamans

### Actions

- MOTION:** "To approve the minutes of November 5, 2018 as amended" by Racine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fuller Passed-unanimous. Eldridge asked that his absence at the 11/5/18 meeting be noted as "excused" as he was attending a school board meeting.
- MOTION:** "To recommend the police budget of \$194,213" by Eldridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fuller. Passed-unanimous
- MOTION:** "To recommend the dog officer budget of \$500" by Racine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Eldridge. Passed-unanimous
- MOTION:** "To recommend the forest fire warden budget of \$5,000" by Eldridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Espie. Passed-unanimous
- MOTION:** "To recommend the emergency management budget of \$1,510" by Eldridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Racine. Passed-unanimous
- MOTION:** "To recommend the fire department budget of \$138,517" by Eldridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Racine. Passed-unanimous.

### Other Discussions

Police Chief Tim Butts presented his department budget. He and the board of selectmen agree to replace police cruisers once every six years rather than the current five-year replacement. He said it has been a very busy year with an increase in drug, internet, and felony-level crime. Department statistics are published annually in the town report. He is adding 16 part-time officer hours per week in the 2019 budget. There is a "bidding war" amongst area towns all vying for the same part-time coverage. When asked about his salary, Cahalane answered that the selectmen decided to freeze the salaries of highest paid employees while bringing the others up to "right the deficits" and that all employees have been very understanding. Cahalane said the selectmen decided on \$14,000 increase for the 2019 budget to apply to salaries. Asked about police details, Chief Butts said the town receives \$25 per hour and the officer is paid \$50 per hour. Working these special details, i.e., fair security, utility crew standby, helps to foster a good relationship with other police agencies.

Forest Fire Warden Richard Thompson said the department has received a \$2,000 grant from State of NH to offset the \$4,070 cost of new forestry clothing (shirts, pants, goggles, helmets).

Fire Chief Randy Burbank presented his department budget. New equipment includes firefighter gear and hose replacement. The current EMS contract (with Eaton, Freedom, Madison, Tamworth and Ossipee) expires on 3/31/2020 and he has documented 31 instances that CarePlus has violated the current contract.

All non-profit organizations requesting 2019 funding have submitted the required paperwork. The most recent budget versus actual report was reviewed with no questions.

Chm. Strauss provided a copy of an email from supervisors of the checklist more clearly explaining their salary increase.

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. by Eldridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fuller.

Next Meeting: November 20, 2018

Minutes approved by majority vote on: 11/27/18