

## Town of Effingham

Budget Committee

December 11, 2018

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Effingham Municipal Office Building  
Members Present: David Strauss, Leo Racine, Mellisa Seamans, Chuck Fuller, Tim Eldridge, Lenny Espie (Selectmen's Rep)  
Minutes By: Mellisa Seamans

### Actions

- MOTION:** "To approve the minutes of November 28, 2018" by Eldridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fuller. Passed-unanimous.
- MOTION:** "To recommend the audit budget (4150) of \$15,500" by Strauss, 2<sup>nd</sup> Seamans. Passed-unanimous.
- MOTION:** "To recommend executive budget (4130) of \$127,700" by Eldridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Strauss. Passed-unanimous
- MOTION:** "To recommend the assessing budget (4152) of \$57,250" by Eldridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Racine. Passed-unanimous
- MOTION:** "To recommend the payroll expenses budget (4155) of \$65,000" by Eldridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Augenti. Passed-unanimous
- MOTION:** "To recommend the municipal buildings budget (4194) of \$74,000" by Eldridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Racine. Passed-unanimous.
- MOTION:** "To recommend the highways and streets budget (4312) of \$729,500" by Eldridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fuller. Passed-unanimous.
- MOTION:** "To recommend the street lighting budget (4520) of \$7,750" by Eldridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Racine. Passed-unanimous.

### Discussion

- The auditing trust fund will be dissolved through warrant article at 2019 town meeting with remaining funds as revenue to the general fund. Suggested by public comment that this fund transfer should occur prior to the 2019 tax rate setting.
- The deputy town clerk is cross training to do assessing clerk duties in the selectmen's office. Committee asked for electronic copy of current assessing contract. The increase in the cost of the assessing contract in 2019 and projected in 2020 is due to utilizing assessing contractor rather than town office staff for data entry. Requested the Town explore adding assessing records and interactive tax maps to the Town website.
- Noted retirement expense line overspent in 2018. Discussion about accumulated sick and vacation time payouts to employees on separation from town employment and impact on overall budget. Question about increased cost of payroll expense due to police special details.
- Town receives heating fuel at State bid rate. Town exploring possibility of electricity supply cooperatives to reduce costs.
- Green Mountain Road paving project expected to extend to West Range Road in 2019 including three culverts that will need NH DES Wetlands permitting. Current road maintenance contract (summer roads) expires May 31, 2019; winter contract in 2020.
- On advice of engineer, selectmen extending the bid period for Elm Street and Snow Road bridges to mid-January.

- Committee reviewed library usage data requested from and received by library trustees. Chm. Strauss asked that any questions regarding the library data be submitted through him. Racine asked for explanation of “retail value” of services.

Next Meeting: January 8, 2019

Minutes approved by majority vote on: 01/08/19