

Town of Effingham

Budget Committee

January 15, 2019

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Effingham Municipal Office Building
Members Present: David Strauss, Leo Racine, Jory Augenti, Lenny Espie (Selectmen's Rep), Mellisa Seamans, Chuck Fuller (via conference call)
Members Absent: Tim Eldridge
Others Present: Selectman Michael Cahalane, Selectman John Meisner
Minutes By: Mellisa Seamans

Actions

MOTION: "To approve the minutes of January 8, 2019" Passed-unanimous
MOTION: "To recommend the insurance budget of \$108,800 by Strauss, 2nd Augenti. Passed unanimous roll call.
MOTION: "To recommend \$1,160 for Aquatic Capital Reserve Fund" by Seamans, 2nd Strauss. Passed unanimous roll call.
MOTION: "To recommend \$1,000 from Town of Parsonsfield for Fire Truck and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund" by Seamans, 2nd Strauss. Passed unanimous roll call.
MOTION: "To recommend \$20,000 for Fire Truck and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund" by Seamans, 2nd Strauss. Passed unanimous roll call.
MOTION: "To recommend \$10,000 for Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund" by Seamans, 2nd Strauss. Passed unanimous roll call.
MOTION: "To recommend \$2,000 for Transfer Station/Recycling Center Capital Reserve Fund" by Seamans, 2nd Strauss. Passed unanimous roll call.
MOTION: "To recommend \$15,000 for Municipal Buildings Expendable Trust" by Strauss, 2nd Seamans. Passed unanimous roll call.
MOTION: "To recommend \$2,500 for Computer and Network Equipment Expendable Trust Fund" by Seamans, 2nd Strauss. Passed unanimous roll call.
MOTION: "To recommend \$5,000 for Town Hall Expendable Trust Fund" by Strauss, 2nd Racine. Passed unanimous roll call.
MOTION: "To recommend \$15,000 for Town Hall Maintenance/Upgrades" by Fuller, 2nd Seamans. Passed 5-1 with Chm. Strauss opposed.
MOTION: "To recommend dissolving the Municipal Auditing Expendable Trust Fund" Passed unanimous on roll call vote.

Notes

- Pursue inviting NH DOT Bridge Aid representative to a budget committee meeting for public question and answer about the program, process, and funding if the board of selectmen do not invite same to their meeting.
- Chm. Strauss will provide a copy of the 2018 NH DRA tax rate setting packet to all committee members.
- Espie will inquire about status of 2018 audit, if it will be completed prior to town meeting, and if a preliminary undesignated fund balance total can be provided prior to the public budget hearing.

- Trustees of Trust Funds will be recommending two warrant articles to correct a 2008 bookkeeping error. \$2,500 was deposited in the Fire Truck Capital Reserve that should have been deposited in the Emergency Management Trust.
- Decision on 2019 bridge funding is delayed until next meeting due to need for more information, the bids for Elm Street Bridge and Snow Road Bridge coming in significantly higher than expected, and the town administrator advising one selectman against using any fund balance beyond lapsed bridge funds to pay for the projects. The selectmen are expected to discuss/finalize their plan for 2019 bridge funding at their January 22 meeting.
- There will be a warrant article to change the purpose of the Town Hall Expendable Trust to include “rehabilitation”.
- Fuller explained the \$15,000 Town Hall article will be used to complete the hazard mitigation recommendations, do exploratory work on the condition of the sills and window work. Strauss opposed raising the \$15,000 through taxation and spoke in favor of taking the funds from Town Hall Expendable Trust. Fuller recommends leaving the Trust funds to use to leverage grant funds. Effingham Preservation Society has agreed to “act as a conduit” for private donations, foundation grants, etc. for the Town Hall project. Fuller and the Society are working on a set of written guidelines. Seamans suggested dissolving the Public Safety Building Trust Fund and applying the approximate \$49,872 balance towards the Town Hall project

Next Meeting: January 29 – 6:30pm

The public budget hearing is February 5 at 7:00 p.m. Snow date February 8. The budget committee will meet prior to the hearing at 6:30 p.m.

The deadline for citizen petition warrant articles is February 5 (NH RSA 39:3).

Minutes approved by majority vote on: 01/29/19