

Town of Effingham
Budget Committee Meeting & Public Hearing
February 5, 2019

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Effingham Municipal Office Building
Members Present: David Strauss, Leo Racine, Chuck Fuller, Timothy Eldridge, Jory Augenti, Lenny Espie (Selectmen's Rep), Mellisa Seamans
Others Present: Selectman John Meisner, Selectman Michael Cahalane, Town Administrator Claudia Lamphier, Carol Pfister, Theresa Swanick, Karen Payne, Cheryle Feirick, Erik Jones, Henry Spencer, Maureen Spencer, Michael Pilkovsky, Lawrence Edwards, Linda Edwards, Irene Riordan, Jamie Mullen, Ruth O'Neal, Susan Slack, Heidi Foy, Chris Seamans.
Minutes By: Mellisa Seamans

MOTION: "To approve the minutes of January 29, 2019 with one typographical correction" Passed-unanimous

Members discussed the public budget hearing procedure, warrant sheets and MS 737. Chm. Strauss agreed with selectmen that the budget committee will not have a separate table at town meeting but rather he will sit with the selectmen. Following a brief recess, the public hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chm. Strauss explained how the budget process was structured this year. Commended the selectmen and their staff for working to improve the process by implementing budget committee created budget forms, non-profit packets and working within the budget timeline. A budget member, usually Chm, Strauss attended all budget work sessions/meetings held by selectmen. Chm. Strauss noted the selectmen also worked early on in the budget process to establish a salary increase policy.

Each budget worksheet was reviewed and the public given opportunity to ask questions or offer comments.
Executive – No questions. C. Seamans asked how salary increases were determined across all departments.

Town Clerk – No questions. Chm. Strauss noted the town clerk's office is now doing boat registrations and this brings revenue to the town.

Supervisors of Checklist – No questions.

Financial Administration – The auditing capital reserve is being dissolved this year by town meeting vote. Future operating budgets will contain an auditing line.

Tax Collector – No questions

Treasurer – K Payne questioned cost of purchasing checks and if bill payments could be moved into electronic payments to save money.

Budget Committee – New line for secretary salary; following lead of land use boards so all elected Members can participate in meetings and not be distracted by taking notes.

Assessing – Fifth year payment of five-year contract. Increased cost due to increased costs paid to contractor for data entry and other duties not handled by town office staff.

Legal, Payroll Expenses - No questions.

Zoning Officer, ZBA, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Historic District – No questions. Noted that the budget worksheets show great detail, but that detail is not carried over into the town Accounting system. Therefore, actual expenditures for each line item not available.

Municipal Building and Municipal Trust – Concern about lack of detail; suggestion to include a footnote

on future budget worksheets detailing expenditures from these two budgets outside of routine expenses (heat, electricity, etc.)

Cemeteries, Insurance, Advertising, Police, Fire, Emergency Management, Forest Fire, Dog Officer

– No questions. One correction – Fire member pay budget 2018 was \$26,000.

Highways & Streets – No questions.

Solid Waste Disposal, Cleanup, Landfill Monitoring – M Seamans questioned why \$7,502.90 was spent for landfill monitoring in 2018 (budget was \$3,750). No problems with testing results or contamination.

The increased cost due to renewing 5-year groundwater monitoring permit change in NH DES leadership, new testing requirements. Town searching for new firm to conduct landfill monitoring as Pine Tree Engineering no longer available.

Health Agencies, Meals on Wheels – Chm. Strauss explained that the committee worked to try to keep Total appropriated to outside agencies to 1% of the total town budget. Discussion that the total requested from the 11 agencies is \$33,390 with \$25,216 recommended by the committee. Discussion about what services

each offer. Sgt. Mullen spoke about the value of Starting Point. **MOTION: “To increase recommended funding for Children’s Unlimited by \$500 to \$2,000” by Fuller, 2nd Eldridge. Motion passed.**

General Assistance, Parks & Recreation, Patriotic Purposes, Library, Town Forester, Debt Service

– No questions. In addition to the 2019 appropriation of \$10,000 to Ossipee Recreation warrant article 11 will pay the \$10,000 for 2018 from fund balance because no invoice was received in 2018.

Warrant articles #10, 12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19 related to deposits into existing expendable trusts and capital reserve funds were reviewed with no questions. Article 20 (Elm Street Repair), Article 24 (Granite Road Bridge-petition) no discussion. H Foy was given information about established bridge trusts.

Chm. Strauss said if all money articles approved this year, the Town tax rate will increase 43-44 cents.

Public Hearing closed.

GWRSB public hearing on proposed tax cap for school district budget – Effingham Elementary School, February 18, 6:30pm

Next Meeting: February 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes approved by majority vote on: 02/12/19