

Approved: _____
Approved with changes: _____
Unapproved: _____

Effingham Budget Committee Minutes
68 School Street, Effingham
November 24, 2020
Live and Conference Call

Members Present: Dave Strauss (chair), Leo Racine (vice chair), Chuck Fuller (selectmen's rep), David Garceau, Tim Eldridge, Theresa Swanick.

Members Absent: Ben Eldridge.

Others Present: Nate Fogg, Mike Cahalane (selectman), Tom Hart (selectman) Erik Jones (via Phone), Doris Sirois.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Minutes

The Budget Committee (BC) reviewed the minutes from the November 17th, 2020 meeting.

A motion was made by Dave Strauss to approve the November 17th, 2020 minutes as printed. The motion was seconded by Chuck Fuller. Roll call vote: David Strauss- aye, Leo Racine- abstain, Tim Eldridge- abstain, Chuck Fuller- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (4-0-2).

Outstanding Taxes

The BC looked at the outstanding taxes to date. The total unpaid taxes as of 11/24/20 are \$470,296.77.

Board Business

In a correction from last meeting, petitioned warrant articles are due by February 2nd.

Non-Profit Presentations:

(4415) Freedom Food Pantry represented by Doris Sirois (in person)

The food pantry serves several communities. Effingham is 35% of their clients, representing 18 families from town. A 20% reduction was requested (\$4,000) due to additional subsidies mainly through the USDA and NH Food Bank. Soup Kitchens and Food Pantries were also receiving subsidies. These subsidies will be ending. They will make do with what they receive, but knowing what she knows today, she would have asked for the \$5,000 they received during the current year.

The BC will consider the request later.

4415 Children Unlimited represented by Barbara Ross (via phone)

Children Unlimited has been passing out the Covid Relief Fund to those in need. Much was distributed as Food Cards and Gas Cards.

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Effingham Budget Committee Minutes
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Live and Conference Call

The BC will consider the request later.

4415 Northern Human Services (NHS) represented by Valeda Cerasale (via phone)

NHS had to adjust their services to take place via phone in place of face to face this year. They spent 667.5 hours providing services costing \$114,000. They are asking for level funding at \$716. They receive other support from donations, contributions, public support, and funding from other towns. Contributions are received through business and private funds. The \$716 is based upon Effingham's number of residents and hours spent providing services.

The BC will consider the request later.

4415 Tri-County CAP represented by Amy Govette (via phone)

The agency tries to pull several agencies together to provide a comprehensive program of energy and health services. They are asking for \$3,000 for the coming year. They have assisted 68 people in Effingham. Their support provided for: 56 electricity support, 56 electrical support, 309 dental patients, including hygiene services through schools, and 3 for the head start program. They do not receive support from businesses or fundraising. Funding from the supporting towns is used as matching funds to support federal grants.

The BC will consider the request later.

4415 Visiting Nurses Association (VNA)- Hospice represented by David Emberley (via phone)

This section of the VNA-Hospice serves Belknap and Southern Carroll Counties in NH. The \$3,000 helps support services in Effingham. VNA-Hospice provided 1,745 visits to Effingham residents this year at a cost of \$20,907. This year they also added Covid testing for home bound residents.

The BC will consider the request later.

4415 Ossipee Children's Fund represented by Eve Klotz

Ossipee Children's Fund requested to be funded at \$3,500.

They have been around for almost 30 years. 3% of their funding is used for office supplies. They do not have salaries. They fund special programs for children who would otherwise be unable to participate. The award is based on needs. It costs \$12,000 to provide fulltime childcare so that parents can work. They provide assistance to Ossipee, Effingham, Freedom, and Madison. They ask for 28% of costs from each town. They are asking for \$3,500 to help expand childcare for families.

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Their funding comes from: Towns- 22k, Grants- 16k, Fundraising- 24k, and investments- 11k.

Some examples of other programs they provide are camperships, after school programs, special needs, art, horseback riding, and drivers education.

Covid has required them to spend more on daycare assistance.

State funding to assist families with daycare will be ending. They hope to be able to pick up some of the shortfall.

The BC will consider the request later.

Committee started to debate the funding of the agencies:

Chair went into detail of normally the Committee would take a percentage of the operating budget as a base line to fund the non-profits but suggested using the figures from last year as a starting point. He also reminded the Committee that any increase in the approved amount to these agencies will reduce the projected \$44,000 overall projected savings in the 2021 budget.

4415 American Red Cross not represented

While the Red Cross has helped during emergencies, Effingham's support to their \$6.4 million dollar budget is a drop in the bucket. Suggestion to level fund at \$250.

Ossipee funds at \$0. Madison funds at \$0.

Leo Racine made a motion to level fund the American Red Cross at \$250. The motion was seconded by Theresa Swanick. Roll call vote: David Strauss- aye, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (6-0). BoS agrees with \$250.

4415.2 Meals on Wheels not represented

As of November 17th, 2020 the Meals on Wheels budget has \$261 left out of this year's \$4,000 budget. They are requesting \$4,500. The BoS felt this should be increased to the requested \$4,500 based on the expenditures. They bill monthly. If they went over slightly this year, Mr Cahalane felt that the overage could be absorbed.

Ossipee funds the program at \$20,000, Madison funds the program at \$0 (they may be connected with a different program.)

Leo Racine made a motion to level fund Meals on Wheels at \$4,000. The motion was seconded by Theresa Swanick. Roll call vote: David Strauss- aye, Leo Racine- nay, Tim

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Effingham Budget Committee Minutes

68 School Street, Effingham

November 24, 2020

Live and Conference Call

Eldridge- nay, Chuck Fuller- nay, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- nay. The motion fails with a 3-3 vote.

Tim Eldridge made a motion to fund the Meal on Wheels program at \$4,500. The motion was seconded by Chuck Fuller. Roll call vote: David Strauss- nay, Leo Racine- nay, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (4-2). BoS agrees with \$4500.

4415 White Mountain Community Health not represented

White Mountain Community Health requested \$2,113 for the 2021 budget year. Their services overlap with White Horse and Tri-County Community Health. 62 people in Effingham are served. Ossiipee gives \$3,800 and Madison gives \$6,200.

Mike Cahalane believes that General Assistance is going well because agencies like this one are providing assistance.

Dave Strauss made a motion to fund White Mountain Community Healthcare at \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Theresa Swanick. Roll call vote: David Strauss- aye, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (6-0). BoS agrees with \$1000.

4415 Starting Point not represented

Starting Point requested \$3,098 for the 2021 budget year. They handle homeless and domestic abuse. There has been a large increase in domestic abuse calls with Covid. 40% of their cost is Effingham people served. Noted that this does not include family members that are impacted but they are also provided assistance. Noted no other agency handles sex/domestic abuse and our police support/use this agency very much.

Ossiipee give \$5,679 and Madison gives \$2,425.

Dave Strauss made a motion to fund Starting Point at \$2,500. The motion was seconded by Leo Racine.

Theresa Swanick made a motion to amend the funding for Starting Point to \$3,098. Chuck Fuller seconded by motion. Roll call vote on the amendment to \$3,098: David Strauss- nay, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (5-1).

Voting on the amended budgeted amount of \$3,098 for Starting Point. Roll call vote on the amendment to \$3,098: David Strauss- nay, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck

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Effingham Budget Committee Minutes

68 School Street, Effingham

November 24, 2020

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Fuller- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (5-1). BoS agrees with \$3098

(4415) Freedom Food Pantry

The Food Pantry had considered asking for \$5,000 knowing that subsidies will be ending this coming year. Based upon previous discussions regarding how some agencies definitely provide support to families that has helped keep General Assistance under control, the BC wanted to reconsider giving the Food Pantry \$5,000. It was noted \$4.63 pp/yr was amazing, additionally major food supplies were from USDA due to tariffs. Noted this agency could have a major impact on our welfare line if not funded.

Theresa Swanick made a motion to fund the Freedom Food Pantry at \$5000. The motion was seconded by Chuck Fuller. Roll call vote: David Strauss- aye, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (6-0). BoS agrees with \$5000.

4415 Northern Human Services (NHS)

NHS requested \$716. Discussed the value of services given and unique service they provide (hospice), discussed CV-19 affect.

Tim Eldridge made a motion to fund Northern Human Services at \$716. The motion was seconded by Theresa Swanick. Roll call vote: David Strauss- aye, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (6-0). BoS agrees with \$716

4415 Tri-County CAP

Tri-County CAP requested to level fund at \$3,000. Discussed the assistance this agency provides (heat/fuel) and the impact on the town if we did not have it.

Tim Eldridge made a motion to fund Tri-County CAP at \$3,000. The motion was seconded by Chuck Fuller. Roll call vote: David Strauss- nay, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (5-1). BoS agrees with \$3000.

4415 Children Unlimited

Children Unlimited requested to level fund at \$2,000. Noted that this agency only provides family support services. Ossipee gave \$3000 and Madison \$3100.

Tim Eldridge made a motion to fund Children Unlimited at \$2,000. The motion was seconded by Theresa Swanick. Roll call vote: David Strauss- aye, Leo Racine- aye, Tim

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68 School Street, Effingham

November 24, 2020

Live and Conference Call

Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (6-0). BoS agrees with \$2000.

4415 VNA-Hospice

VNA-Hospice requested \$3,000. Discussed the fee structure in the packet and noted the cost was sliding scale and even lower income would end up paying. Noted the size of the revenue was 8.6 million 2x larger than Redcross. It was also noted the large salaries of a few staff. Discussed CV-19 impact on hiring nurses and the affect in the workplace. Felt funding to less than requested would not impact the agency.

Ossipee funds at \$14,000 and Madison funds at \$0

Tim Eldridge made a motion to fund VNA-Hospice at \$2,000. The motion was seconded by Chuck Fuller. Roll call vote: David Strauss- nay, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (5-1). BoS agrees with \$2000.

4415 White Horse Addiction Center requested presentation but did not show up

White Horse Addition Center requested to be funded at \$3000.

22 clients in our town using various services they provide. Noted they are expanding with a thrift store and possible bed facility. Discussed northern H.S, and White Mtn Comm Health provide some of the same services. Noted Wakefield gives \$2500, Tuftonboro \$3000 & Ossipee \$2500, based on the revenue of these towns compared to ours it was felt \$500 was a comparable donation.

Tim Eldridge made a motion to fund White Horse at \$1,500. The motion was seconded by Leo Racine.

Dave Strauss made a motion to amend the amount of funding for White Horse Addition Center to \$500. Tim Eldridge seconded the motion. Roll call vote: David Strauss- aye, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- nay, Theresa Swanick- nay, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (4-2).

Dave Strauss called for a vote on the amended motion for White Horse at \$500. Roll call vote: David Strauss- aye, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- nay, Theresa Swanick- nay, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (4-2). BoS agrees with \$500.

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Dave Strauss checked emails and conference call logins without any new questions or logins to report.

4415 Ossipee Children's Fund

Ossipee Children's Fund requested to be funded at \$3,500. Noted that this has similar programs listed that are available in the schools and the summer rec. program we fund. They detailed the large increase in daycare costs and that CV-19 has reduced some programs. Tim detailed that this program will help fund those who cannot pay for programs that require additional funds & that Ossipee rec still requires a fee for the child above our \$10k.

Theresa Swanick made a motion to fund the Ossipee Children's Fund at \$3,000. Chuck Fuller seconded the motion.

The total amount for all non-profits stands at \$20,564.

Tim Eldridge made a motion to amend the funding of the Ossipee Children's Fund to \$3,500. Theresa Swanick seconded the motion for the amended funding. Roll call vote: David Strauss- nay, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (5-1).

Dave Strauss called for a vote on the amended motion for Ossipee Children's Fund to \$3,500. Roll call vote: David Strauss- nay, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (5-1). BoS agrees with \$3000 but not the \$3500.

The total amount for all non-profits now stands at \$21,064.

Ossipee Recreation Program

Mike Cahalane noted that the BoS is looking into alternatives to the Ossipee Recreation Program. We currently support the program at \$10k. This gets the Effingham children in the door, and then they still have to pay to play. If we leave the Ossipee program, we will likely not be allowed to rejoin in the future.

The BoS approved the program at the \$3,000 for this year.

Tim Eldridge made a motion to fund the Ossipee Recreation Program at \$10,000. Theresa Swanick seconded the motion. Roll call vote: David Strauss- nay, Leo Racine- nay, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (4-2).

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A budget question asked by Erik Jones was answered at the previous meeting. Mr. Jones was allowed to address the Committee via the conference line. Erik noted that he had made a comment the day before the meeting relating to VNA-Hospice. VNA-Hospice has made a significant difference in his mother's well-being. He wanted the BC to know that they are a big help.

CIP Report

No information reported.

Next Budget Committee Meeting

The next BC meeting is scheduled for December 8th, 2020 beginning at 6:00pm.

Public Comment

The Chair unmuted Mr. Jones and Mr. Erik Jones noted that he was all set at this point.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tim Eldridge. The motion was seconded by Leo Racine. Roll call vote: David Strauss- aye, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (6-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.