

Approved: _____
Approved with changes: _____
Unapproved: _____

Effingham Budget Committee Minutes
68 School Street, Effingham
January 12, 2021
Live and Conference Call

Members Present: Dave Strauss (chair), Leo Racine (vice chair), Chuck Fuller (selectmen's rep), David Garceau, Tim Eldridge, Ben Eldridge, Theresa Swanick joined at 6:10pm.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Nate Fogg, Mike Cahalane (selectman), Tom Hart (selectman).

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. A roll call confirmed those present.

Minutes

The Budget Committee (BC) reviewed the minutes from the December 8th, 2020 meeting.

A motion was made by Tim Eldridge to approve the December 8th, 2020 minutes as printed. The motion was seconded by David Strauss. Roll call vote: David Strauss- aye, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, Ben Eldridge- aye, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (6-0).

Budget Review 4197 Advertising & Dues represented by the Board of Selectmen (BoS)

The Advertising & Dues budget is requested at \$2,000. Mike Cahalane noted that the dues that are paid to New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) were incorrectly posted in 2020. These dues are currently \$2,733.90. The BoS have approved the budget at \$3,000. He asked that the BC consider the same.

A motion was made by David Strauss to approve the 4197 Advertising & Dues Budget at \$3,000. The motion was seconded by Tim Eldridge. Roll call vote: David Strauss- aye, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, David Garceau- aye, Ben Eldridge- aye. The motion passed (6-0).

Theresa Swanick called into the meeting at 6:10pm.

Budget Review 4611 conservation Commission

The BC had questioned how much money had been added to the account for Future Land Purchases in recent years. The BC had previously added \$1,000 to their budget for a total of \$5,455. The BC reviewed the Conservation Commission balance sheet from 2013 to present. All members were satisfied with the budget as approved and no change was proposed.

The BC was reminded that any and all budgets can be revised up until the public hearing scheduled for February 2nd, 2021.

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Budget Committee Report for the Annual Report

Chairman Strauss provided a draft report. The BC liked the report and Dave Strauss will revise some numbers for the current actual numbers. The tax rate was decreased by \$5.65 to \$21.25/K. The BoS are attempting to maintain a steady tax rate. The ambulance budget will be jumping \$28,000 because of an increase in calls. Green Mountain Treatment Center has agreed to pay their share of the ambulance calls to help cover the cost and remove a potential impact to the town if they are allowed to expand. Effingham has the second most ambulance calls out of the 6 towns involved in the ambulance contract.

The School budget is in flux and is not controlled by the BoS.

Next BC Meeting

The next BC meeting is January 26th, 2021 at 6:00pm. The BC will review all budgets and finalize for the budget public hearing on February 2nd, 2021. The BC will review and fill out the MS 737 report, which the BC members must sign.

On February 2nd, 2021 the budget hearing will be held. Audrey Fraizer will attend the public hearing and direct questions from the public to the BC to be addressed.

Budget to Actual (B2A)

The latest B2A was reviewed. Questions noted in the margins have all been addressed by Audrey Frazier. A final B2A will be prepared after final 2020 checks have been written in the coming week. Some small adjustments will be made to correct the report. Police Retirement is one area that still needs to be reviewed and correctly reported.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Report

The BC has not reviewed the final CIP Report. Chuck Fuller will report this to Grace Fuller and get the final draft to the BC.

Public Comment

No questions were received from the public. Theresa Swanick was the only participant on the phone line. The phone and email were checked several times during the course of the meeting.

Next Budget Committee Meeting

The next BC meeting is scheduled for January 26th, 2021 beginning at 6:00pm.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Leo Racine. The motion was seconded by Tim Eldridge. Roll call vote: David Strauss- aye, Leo Racine- aye, Tim Eldridge- aye, Chuck Fuller- aye, Ben Eldridge- aye, David Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye. The motion passed (7-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.