

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved with changes: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unapproved: \_\_\_\_\_

**Effingham Budget Committee Minutes**  
**68 School St, Effingham**  
**July 13, 2021**

**Live and Conference Call**

**Members Present:** Dave Strauss, (chair), Leo Racine (vice chair), Tom Hart (selectman's rep), David Garceau, Theresa Swanick, Jay Krysa

**Members Absent:** Jim Giguere

**Others present:** Westie Krysa, Mike Cahalane, Darlene McWhirter, Rosemarie Wissenbach, Chuck Fuller, Lenny Espie

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

Westie will now record and take minutes

A roll call confirmed those present

**Minutes:**

**Dave Strauss motioned to approve the meeting minutes for May 18, 2021, Leo Racine 2nd the motion. Roll call vote: Dave Strauss- aye, Leo Racine-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Tom Hart-aye, Jay Krysa- abstain, David Garceau- aye. The motion passed (5-0-1).**

**Board business:**

Chair explained to Jay Krysa, any office business goes to the chair. He reminded on emails, please do not reply to all, reply to individual only.

**Employee Salary Raise:**

Chair detailed that the Clerk's office is requesting an additional 9 hours per week. More information / data has been requested; this would be \$6500.00 more salary on that line item. He detailed that a 2% increase would be about a \$10,000 increase and a 3% increase would be about \$15,000. He also stated that the library is separate and the library controls their own salaries, increases and percentages. The Budget Committee would address Library salaries when they present their budget.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved with changes: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unapproved: \_\_\_\_\_

**Effingham Budget Committee Minutes**  
**68 School St, Effingham**  
**July 13, 2021**

**Live and Conference Call**

Chair discussed if the Budget Committee wanted to let the select board handle salaries for the office as had been done in previous years.

Chair discussed salary increases of 0% to 3%, asked what the overall feeling is, where does the committee sit in regards to this. It was debated if we wanted the select board to recommend a percentage before we agree on this. After much debate it the Budget Committee agreed to a 3% increase understanding not all had to be spent.

**OVERALL Budget Increase:**

Chair reminded the Committee that we are looking at a \$3.10 per thousand tax rate hike in December, the majority being the School. He stated the Fire Department needs an additional \$40K, justification was stated at the Town meeting. He noted at the end of last year we were sitting \$900k delinquent in property taxes which usually is \$400k, the stimulus payments have helped. His concern is that without the stimulus payments and extra unemployment we could be in higher delinquency numbers than last year. Tom Hart noted now, people are getting \$300 per child which might offset some of the delinquent taxes.

Darlene McWhirter added the boards expect guidance. Chair reminded the Committee we need to be prudent on what we are spending with a large property tax looming, Leo Racine agrees. After a discussion it was decided to go formally to each board, and request a justification of any increase with the goal of a zero increase. Budget sheets would be updated to highlight this request.

**Non-Profits:**

Chair detailed the sending of a letter to Non Profits, what we would usually do is schedule a presentation; we have been doing that for as long as I remember, what does the Committee think of not having the presentations?

A discussion ensued in regards to presentations or not, it is the feeling that most information would be included in the packet.

Jay Krysa added that being new; he would like to hear presentations. Chair stated for the new members benefit we would leave it, as there is usually only 4 or 5 presentations.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved with changes: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unapproved: \_\_\_\_\_

**Effingham Budget Committee Minutes**  
**68 School St, Effingham**  
**July 13, 2021**

**Live and Conference Call**

**Budget to Actual Review:**

Chair went over last month's changes and stated if there were any questions on this report? If so please get back to him.

Mike Cahalane discussed nailing down metal actual charges and hauling fee, as well as glass fees, weight of glass hauling fees, feels that these two categories are not being fully captured.

**Fire Department monthly Part-time report:**

This is a report requested from Randy (Fire Chief), which is done formally each month. Chair stated it is good informative data regarding where the calls are and what part of town they are coming from. This information supports the town meeting approval.

**Police Department monthly K-9 report:**

Joe's (police Chief) report was done informally as Faro is not certified yet but expected to be partial certified by the end of July. Discussion was held regarding Faro and training qualifications.

**Public Comment:**

Chair noted the public had no additional questions. Additionally the call-in forum did not have anyone in attendance.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2021 at 6pm

**Adjournment:**

**Tom Hart motioned to adjourn meeting, The motion was seconded by Leo Racine. Roll call vote: Tom Hart-aye, Jay Krysa-aye, David Garceau-aye, Dave Strauss- aye, Leo Racine-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye. The motion passed (6-0).**