

Approved: _____

Approved with changes _____

Unapproved _____

Effingham Budget Committee Minutes

68 School St, Effingham

October 5, 2021

Members present: Dave Strauss (chair), Leo Racine (vice chair), David Garceau, Jim Giguere, Jay Krysa, Theresa Swanick

Members absent: Tom Hart

Others present: Chuck Fuller, Westie Krysa, Audrey Fraizer, Rosemarie Wissenbach

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm

A roll call confirmed those present.

Minutes:

Dave Strauss motioned to approve the meeting minutes for July 13, 2021, Leo Racine 2nd the motion.

Roll call vote: Dave Strauss-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Jay Krysa- aye, Jim Giguere- abstain, David Garceau-aye. The motion passed (4-0-1)

Board Business:

Chair stated he would be attending all Selectboard budget reviews and expects to be complete before the meeting on the 26th. He asked members to add \$20 to the postage on the budget sheet.

Chair made a motion to approve the increase by \$20, all 5 members agreed to approve.

Chair went over the review process, repetitive charges, approval of 3% overall. He stated the Ossipee Rec Department is going from \$10,000 to \$30,000 and justification will be sent. Leo Racine asked, what percentage is ours and what percentage is Ossipee's. The Chair asked if the members would like to have 2 representatives from Ossipee come. Jim Giguere stated that questions could be asked. Selectman Fuller stated there is a new Chairperson, and the Highway Department supports the Rec and the Rec budget.

Fire Department monthly Part-time report:

Members reviewed the call times and locations. Jim Giguere stated that the budget is for part of the year. Selectman Fuller clarified; the budget was funded from May to the end of the year.

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Leo Racine questioned the calls being cancelled. David Strauss stated once the Fire Department arrives and the ambulance isn't needed, they cancel, therefore, the Town is not charged.

Police Department monthly K-9 report:

Faro once certified for use will be detailed out to us. The Effingham PD was having a significant hard time getting part time people. Police Chief Joe Duschesne met with the selectboard for a full-time officer, and this was approved.

Other business:

Chair stated, as of today, taxes are \$500,000 in arears, a higher rate than normal. Potential for December increase. He also said we have an unknown for new Fire Chief budget and recruiting a new Chief. Leo Racine asked what the number is. Selectman Fuller has been in touch with Brian Duggin to research the cost of a new Fire Chief, 20 to 30 hours a week at \$25 to \$30 an hour. He feels there are several retired fire chiefs in this area who may be interested.

Chair stated prior year overlay were \$125,000 and adjusting the tax rate for such things as Elderly Exemption/Eversource. Selectman Fuller stated the Eversource agreement was \$63,000 for 3 years. Chair stated there is beetle damage at the Historic town hall in the amount of \$50,000. Leo Racine advised that issue will be on a warrant article.

Chair went over Budget criteria, using the best data we can get and be most accurate this way, having the DRA spreadsheet in October, Tax breakdown, unreserved fund balance, revenues expected and liens we don't have, and a healthy balance is needed to cover.

Public Comment:

Chair noted the public had no additional comments.

Next Meeting:

The next Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for October 26th @ 6pm.

Adjournment:

Jim Giguere motioned to adjourn the meeting, Theresa Swanick seconded the motion. Roll call vote: David Garceau-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Jay Krysa-aye, David Strauss-aye. The motion passed (6-0)