

Approved: _____
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Effingham Budget Committee Minutes

68 School St, Effingham

October 26, 2021

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

Others present: Chuck Fuller, Westie Krysa, Audrey Fraizer, Rosemarie Wissenbach, Grace Fuller, Erik Jones, Lenny Espie, Elaine Chick, Susan Slack, Deanna Amaral, Rebecca Boyden, Emelyn Albert, Carol Pfister, Amanda Stevens

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

A roll call confirmed those present.

Minutes:

Dave Strauss motioned to approve the meeting minutes for October 5, 2021, Leo Racine 2nd the motion. Roll call vote: Dave Strauss-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Jay Krysa- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, David Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, Tom Hart- abstain. The motion passed (6-1)

Board Business:

Chair stated we would cover possible increases and offsets, as well as the review process. Concerned with back taxes unpaid as of October 25, 2021, unreserved fund of \$453,146.00, \$100,000.00 in back taxes for 2019; approximately 180,000.00 for 2020, we are half way through to December 2021 tax bills with \$181,000.00 owing before December 2021. The estimated unreserved fund balance being \$485,000.00. This could change dramatically with liens and or taxes paid. He stated the unspent budget is estimated to be 10% or about \$220,000.00 and \$150,000.00 is earmarked for Green Mountain Road. The Chair discussed the possible increases for 2022, stating last year we did not fund the Bridge Trust Fund which is needed. Estimated funding should be 30 to 40,000.00. Mr. Fuller stated the grant applied for Bailey Road bridge was denied. Mr Strauss also stated, possible offsets: the cost of \$38,000.00 for a defibrillator and \$125,000.00 overlay reduction, totaling \$163,000.00

4191 Zoning Officer budget:

Chair Strauss motion to approve budget as submitted for \$24,478; Vice Chair Racine, 2nd the motion.

Rebecca stated her budget was \$15,823.00, and requested an increase to \$24,478.00, for a new field inspector. Chair Strauss questioned sitting down and prioritizing the work load with the Board of Selectman. Rebecca stated the issue is building permits, zoning violation, 2 week turn around for building permits, the advantages of having an assistant when you need to check, double check, trip check. Having an assistant will eliminate time on the road. She stated she is behind on violations, permit applications are up, things fall off from the list for things the law does not obligate. Rebecca feels an assistant will have hours well spent, and follow the priority of the Board of Selectman. When she started 15 years ago, she was working 3 hours a week, now she is at 12 hours per week. Leo Racine asked if she has hired anyone yet? Rebecca stated David Hynes is doing extra, honestly, he would be a great choice. Jim Giguere asked what is the percentage of increase in permits? Rebecca

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stated it is up in the last 5 years and even more in the last couple of years to 70 –90 a year, therefore, more violations. She stated the properties with Junk Yard problems which started at 11 and now down to 3 or 4 properties. Chair Strauss stated, Jim is looking for a percentage of increase. Rebecca stated she turns in monthly reports with all activity to the Selectboard. Theresa Swanick said she would like to hear from the selectman, as they discussed and approved the budget. Tom Hart said it is an increase in work load for Rebecca. Chuck Fuller said Jim, my observation in processing violations, caught 25 to 30 which we have had to use legal counsel. Theresa Swanick said as a new chief came into town asking for more money to hit hard. Chair Strauss stated he is not in favor of an increase this year, maybe next year. Theresa said she doesn't see it quite as \$7000.00 or \$8,000.00 for real property issues, it is just invaluable, the idea of someone who is skilled and getting out there. Chair Strauss said he is concerned about the tax payer; can't support an assistant. Theresa said, could we take \$8000 off Green Mountain Road. Vice Chair Racine asked to vote on this. Jim Giguere stated we need to look at the needs vs.wants and he would like to see the numbers. Rebecca stated she needs to be responsible, as the only person who is on staff and answering the phone, feels an assistant will better service the community.

Committee vote to approved budget of \$24,478.00: Leo Racine – aye, John Krysa- aye, Tom Hart- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Dave Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Strauss- nay (passes 6-1)

4611 Conservation Commission Budget:

Theresa Swanick motion to approve budget as submitted for \$3,805; Chair Strauss, 2nd the motion.

Emelyn stated they are working on land improvement and a project on Pine River. Chair Strauss asked if they have purchased any land. Emelyn stated the Future Land Purchases fund is \$13,574.00. Chair Strauss said Emelyn you do a great job. Leo Racine asked if there were any plans to buy land. Emelyn stated, not with \$13,000.00, but for a possible future purchase, something to put towards it.

Committee vote to approved budget of \$3,805: Leo Racine – aye, John Krysa- aye, Tom Hart- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Dave Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Strauss- aye (pass 7-0)

4150 Financial Administration-Tax Collector:

Deputy Tax Collector should be changed to \$13,163.00, Chair Strauss stated the total calculation being \$42,338.00. Chair asked if Chuck would have the selectman approve. Tom Hart said the selectman need to vote again.

Selectman Chair Fuller moved to approve 4150 in the amount of \$42,338.00, Chair Fuller aye, Tom Hart – aye, Lenny Espie- aye. (pass 3-0)

Theresa Swanick motion to approve budget as submitted for \$42,338; Chair Strauss, 2nd the motion.

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Chair Strauss stated the biggest change in Salary is \$2000.00 extra in Deanna's tax collector line, see \$2000 off from legal increase, software and salary

Committee vote to approved budget of \$42,338.00, Leo Racine – aye, John Krysa- aye, Tom Hart- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Dave Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Strauss- aye (pass 7-0)

4140 Election and Registration- Town Clerk:

Theresa Swanick requested Selectman approve submitted budget.

Selectman Chair Fuller moved to approve 4140 Town Clerk for \$42,503.00, Chair Fuller aye, Tom Hart, Lenny Espie Aye. (pass 3-0)

Theresa Swanick motion to approve budget as submitted for \$42,338; Leo Racine 2ⁿ the motion

Chair Strauss stated Deanna added the assistant last year because of Covid and election expenses changed. Deanna stated in 2022 there will be 3 elections all held in this meeting room.

Committee vote to approved budget of \$42,503.00, Leo Racine – aye, John Krysa- aye, Tom Hart- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Dave Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Strauss- aye (pass 7-0)

4150 Treasurer:

Leo Racine motion to approve budget as submitted for \$5,530; Jay Krysa 2ⁿ the motion

Chair Strauss states he has accepted the role of Deputy Treasurer and will not be voting on the submitted budget. The report shows increasing the Treasurer salary \$1000.00 and decreasing the Deputy Treasurer salary to \$500.00. Elaine Chick stated she did not know what the prior Treasurer did but it all takes time and cross checking. Leo Racine asked what is the average time spent. The Treasurer replied 6 hours a week, going over the Clerk's office statement, BOS statements and checking. Chair Strauss stated the pay is a stipend, an elected position, the Deputy is not elected. Leo Racine asked what does the Deputy do? Elaine said she has had no Deputy from June until now. Jim Giguere states the salary request is a 42% increase, what is the justification? 42% is way too much. Vice Chair Racine asked what would you recommend? Mr Giguere stated 5%, \$135.00. Elaine asked what would you say for the Deputy increase. Jim stated to be consistent the same amount. Elaine said it is listed as a salary, but actually a stipend. Theresa Swanick said we have stipends that fit the job, the budget was bumped up to \$1000 to entice someone to run. Dave Garceau stated a stipend is a Thank you, he doesn't feel they should be treated the same as others with a 3% increase. Grace Fuller asked what other towns do. Audrey Frazier stated Freedom pays \$3600.00 and Wolfeboro pays \$5000.00. Chair Strauss asked if there was enough information to vote.

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Committee vote to approved budget of \$5,5530, Leo Racine –nay, John Krysa- nay, Tom Hart- aye, Jim Giguere- nay, Dave Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- nay, David Strauss- abstain (Fail 4-2-1)

Leo Racine motioned to approve Deputy Treasurer \$525.00 and Treasurer \$3690.00, Jay Krysa 2nd,

Leo Racine stated we could review it next year for an additional 50% increase. Dave Garceau asked how he came up with the 50% increase. Leo stated it is a lot of work and justified, no comparison to the past.

Committee vote to approved budget of \$4,315 Leo Racine –aye, John Krysa- aye, Tom Hart- nay, Jim Giguere- aye, Dave Garceau- nay, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Strauss- abstain (Pass 4-2-1)

4191 Historic District Commission:

Chair Strauss motion to approve budget as submitted for \$485.00, Theresa Swanick 2nd

Susan Slack states they have had two applications with certificates of approval in Public Meetings and are expecting a few more applications with a public hearing when they amend the regulations. Chair Strauss asked if the person with the application pays the fee. Susan Slack stated they amend their own regulations and they pay. Applicants are charged \$30.00. Chair Strauss asked if there were any questions.

Committee vote to approved budget of \$485, Leo Racine – aye, John Krysa- aye, Tom Hart- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Dave Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Strauss- aye (pass 7-0)

4550 Library:

Chair Strauss motion to approve budget as submitted for \$62,035, Theresa Swanick 2nd.

Chair Strauss stated he knows a lot of work has been done with Grants. Grace Fuller stated they are doing a lot of Community activities, outdoor programs, card group, yes, a lot with Grants, around \$13,000.00, they just received a \$10,000.00 moose plate grant for the building and Amanda has written several grants for computers and technology. Amanda states it has been a struggle to get kids back out. She said they have e books, and a lot of great things for kids. Grace stated, e books are very important and more popular than audio books and DVD's. Their hours are Tues to Sat 10-2pm, Fri 11-5pm

Committee vote to approved budget of \$62,035, Leo Racine – aye, John Krysa- aye, Tom Hart- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Dave Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Strauss- aye (pass 7-0)

4191 Planning Board:

Chair Strauss motion to approve budget as submitted for \$5,961, Jim Giguere 2nd

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Theresa Swanick states the association dues is \$1460.00, they do charge for experts, they have been slammed on the Planning Board, and they have \$4000.00 in engineering fees so far for engineering needed for a driveway through wetlands, which the applicant paid. Leo Racine stated, at the end of the year, you get that money back.

Committee vote to approved budget of \$5,961, Leo Racine – aye, John Krysa- aye, Tom Hart- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Dave Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- abstain, David Strauss- aye (Passed-6-0-1)

4191 Zoning Board:

Chair Strauss motion to approve budget as submitted for \$4,162, Jim Giguere 2nd

Theresa stated there was an increase over last year, and money paid by the applicant will be returned. Chair Strauss said having an attorney attend a whole hearing when the Selectboard authorized the attorney caused the overage. Theresa felt she could drop down line item to \$1000.00 on professional services.

Committee vote to approved budget of \$4,162, Leo Racine-nay, Jay Krysa-nay, Tom Hart-nay, Jim Giguere-nay, Chair Strauss-nay, Dave Garceau-nay, Theresa Swanick-abstain-- (Fail 6-0-1).

Committee vote to approved budget of \$3,162, Leo Racine – aye, John Krysa- aye, Tom Hart- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Dave Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- abstain, David Strauss- aye (Passed-6-0-1).

4619.1 Other Conservation:

Chair Strauss requested Selectboard to vote for requested amount of \$3,000 as budget sheet was incorrect (\$2,000 listed). Chuck Fuller, actually supposed to be \$3000.00, was approved for \$2000.00.

Selectman Chair Fuller moved to approve for \$3000.00, Chair Fuller aye, Tom Hart, Lenny Espie Aye. (pass 3-0)

Chair Strauss motion to approve budget as submitted for \$3000.00, Theresa Swanick 2nd.

Chair Strauss stated after a meeting with Avitar it was found that Province Lake properties were paying on 38% below assessed value and a significant amount on Stevens Road. So any effect on the lake could cause abatements. Money is used for boat checks and weed observation.

Committee vote to approve budget of \$3000.00, Leo Racine – aye, John Krysa- aye, Tom Hart- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Dave Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Strauss- aye (pass 7-0).

4141 Supervisors of the Checklist:

Chair Strauss motion to approve budget as submitted for \$2,830.00, Leo Racine 2nd.

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Chair Strauss stated on Page 15 a stipend of \$350 per quarter. Theresa Swanick stated she is aware there is a lot of training. Carol stated most workshops this year were done by Zoom.

Committee vote to approve budget of \$2,830.00, Leo Racine – aye, John Krysa- aye, Tom Hart- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Dave Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Strauss- aye (pass 7-0)

4619 Town Forrester:

Chair Strauss motion to approve budget as submitted for \$1000.000, Vice Chair Leo Racine 2nd.

Chair Strauss stated the Forrester checks our cuts, charges us a 10th of the cost, very efficient, if we have an issue with logging trucks, we go to him first. Theresa Swanick asked what other towns do? Chuck Fuller stated the Selectboard has had him in on a number of occasions, and what he puts in is valued at way more than \$1000.00, stating we have had over 20 cuts this year alone.

Committee vote to approve budget of \$1,000, Leo Racine – aye, John Krysa- aye, Tom Hart- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Dave Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Strauss- aye (pass 7-0)

4151 Budget Committee:

Chair Strauss motion to approve budget as submitted for \$1,394, Leo Racine 2nd.

Discussion on the need for the requested amount as discussed in previous budget meeting.

Committee vote to approve budget of \$1,394, Leo Racine – aye, John Krysa- aye, Tom Hart- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Dave Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Strauss- aye (pass 7-0)

Public Comment:

Chair noted no additional Comments

Next Meeting:

The Next Budget Meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2021

Theresa Swanick motioned to adjourn, Chair Strauss 2nd.

Committee vote to adjourn Leo Racine – aye, John Krysa- aye, Tom Hart- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Dave Garceau- aye, Theresa Swanick- aye, David Strauss- aye (pass 7-0)