

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

Absent: Dave Garceau and Tom Hart

Others present: Chuck Fuller, Westie Krysa, Audrey Frazier, Rosemarie Wissenbach, Erik Jones, Lenny Espie, Joe Duchesne, Randy Burbank

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 26, 2021, Jay Krysa 2nd the motion. Roll call vote: Dave Strauss-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Jay Krysa- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Theresa Swanick - aye The motion passed (5-0)

Board Business:

Chair stated Chief Joe Duchesne would be joining us at 6:30 to go over this budget. Farro is now certified to track. As for evidence and drug detection, he is trained and waiting for his certification. The Effingham PD is down to mostly no part time officers. There is an \$18,000 overall increase by going to 2 fulltime and 1 part time officers. Jim Giguere stated he feels it is awesome the town went with a full time officer, and it makes perfect sense all the way around. Chuck Fuller weighed in with the police 2020 stats vs 2021 which showed a major police presence increase.

4150 Financial Administration/Auditing: Chair Strauss made a motion to approve budget as submitted for \$11,400, Theresa Swanick 2nd. Chair stated this is a contract with Tim Green and Associates. Audrey, town administrator stated it is a three year contract with in our second year.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Theresa Swanick- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine -aye, David Strauss -aye (passed 5-0)

4195 Cemeteries: Chair made a motion to approve budget as submitted for \$2,000, Theresa Swanick 2nd. Leo Racine asked how many cemeteries in Effingham. Chuck Fuller stated the town owns one, have discussed taking over the Poor Farm Cemetery on Moody Road, it is on privately owned land and would need to be deeded over to the town, therefore the Cemetery Budget would go up next year if this happened. Chair stated \$2000 is the standard year to year.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Theresa Swanick- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine -aye, David Strauss -aye (passed 5-0)

4197 Advertising and Dues: Chair made a motion to approve budget as submitted for \$3,000, Leo Racine 2nd. Chair Strauss asked if there are any questions. Theresa asked if this budget is for planning and zoning board, which they pay up front and then are reimbursed. Audrey stated it is for advertising for Town Meetings, any hearings, announcements or employment.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Theresa Swanick- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine -aye, David Strauss -aye (passed 5-0)

4414 Dog Officer Chair made a motion to approve budget as submitted for \$6,700, Leo Racine

2nd, Chief stated our previous Dog Officer Joann's breakdown was approximately \$25 a week for a 24/7 gig. Ossipee he believes pays their Dog Officer approximately \$12,000/year, which he does not feel is warranted in Effingham. Chief Duchesne stated this \$6,700 is his best guess for the position. Chuck Fuller asked if we could get Joann back, Joe stated she wanted the exact contract as she has with Ossipee and felt that would not support this town.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Theresa Swanick- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine -aye, David Strauss -aye (passed 5-0)

4210 Police: Chair made a motion to approve budget as submitted for \$234,367, Leo Racine 2nd. Chair stated the biggest difference is from part time officers to full time officers. Joe stated when he came to Effingham he was hoping to use part time officers for 5 to 6 shifts a week, unfortunately part timers do not want to work. Freedom is paying \$30 an hour for part time. Chief stated he brought new officer up to Full time and the part time positions will be minimal. Chair Strauss asked if there were any questions.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Theresa Swanick- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine -aye, David Strauss -aye (passed 5-0)

4290 Emergency Management: Chair made a motion to approve budget as submitted for \$1,990, Leo Racine 2nd. Chief stated this cost is for the generators. Jim Giguere asked where the generators are located. Chief Burbank stated they are here at the Town Hall, the School and the Fire station.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Theresa Swanick- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine -aye, David Strauss -aye (passed 5-0)

4290 Forrest Fire Warden: Chair made a motion to approve budget as submitted for \$2,500, Leo Racine 2nd. Chief Burbank went through the budget stating all expenses are the same; mileage is down because of Covid. Chuck Fuller stated the Fire Warden is separate from the Chief position and Randy will be in control on January 1st. Chair asked if there are any questions.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Theresa Swanick- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine -aye, David Strauss -aye (passed 5-0)

4220 Fire and Rescue: Chair made a motion to approve budget as submitted for \$147,400, Leo Racine 2nd. Chief went over Disease Prevention is for shots needed. Fire Prevention they would normally do a presentation at the School, expenses and supplies went up \$500 due to station coverage, member pay, which is Stipends based on a trained point system, mutual aid dues which each station pays for dispatch, new equipment, they purchased two new sets of gear, background checks are required for all employees, radio for pagers and batteries, truck and equipment maintenance is service and testing, daytime coverage is 2 men 5 a days a week 10 hours per day each. Chair Strauss asked if any questions. Leo Racine asked if they are able to have 2 people per shift. Randy said they have 1 person every shift and plan on 2 people a day. Chair Strauss asked Randy if there were any grants he is able to get. Randy stated the grant we received was for \$23,725. FEMA is discussing a 2 million dollar grant to build fire stations, we have discussed building a safety complex, and this has not passed yet, but is in the works. Chair noted the BoS had advertised for a new Chief as Randy is retiring and the job description requires the new Chief to man tow 10 hour shifts at the station. This would reduce the part-time cover fee by \$16,400 and the warrant for the new Chief should be before the operating budget warrant article to ensure it is adjusted if needed.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Theresa Swanick- aye, Jim

Giguere- aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine -aye, David Strauss -aye (passed 5-0)

4313 Bridges Chair made a motion to approve budget as submitted for \$1,000, Leo Racine 2nd. Chair stated this is for inspections and minor repairs/washing from winter.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Theresa Swanick- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine -aye, David Strauss -aye (passed 5-0)

4316 Street Lighting: Chair made a motion to approve budget as submitted for \$4,500, Leo Racine 2nd. Chuck Fuller stated out of 25, they are getting rid of 12. Jay Krysa asked if they were being updated. Leo Racine stated, now we are down to 13.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Theresa Swanick- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine -aye, David Strauss -aye (passed 5-0)

4442 General Assistance: Chair made a motion to approve budget as submitted for \$12,000. Theresa Swanick 2nd. Chair stated this used to be a lot higher and it is required by the State. Erik Jones asked if we make every effort to have residence seek help via other programs. Westie answered, we do, there is a process and application requirements. It was pointed out over the years this appears to be the correct budgeted amount.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Theresa Swanick- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine -aye, David Strauss -aye (passed 5-0)

4583 Patriotic Purposes: Chair made a motion to approve budget as submitted for \$700. Jay Krysa 2nd. Chair stated he feels \$700 is a good figure. Theresa stated it works for her.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Theresa Swanick- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine -aye, David Strauss -aye (passed 5-0)

4711 Debt Services: Chair made a motion to approve budget as submitted for \$1. Leo Racine 2nd. It was noted the town does not desire debt but must have the ability if needed.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Theresa Swanick- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine -aye, David Strauss -aye (passed 5-0)

4723 TAN interest: Chair made a motion to approve budget as submitted for \$1. Leo Racine 2nd. This is a tool for the BoS and not expected to be used.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Theresa Swanick- aye, Jim Giguere- aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine -aye, David Strauss -aye (passed 5-0)

Chair Strauss stated the Town tax rate in 2020 was \$8.81/k and 2021 is \$8.53/k which is a reduction of \$0.28/k in the town rate, the overall 2021 tax rate is \$22.49. He also stated the Town Tax Collector had an unusual amount of collected taxes in the excess of \$600,000.00, and stated possibly it is because real estate sales are up and some of the federal assistance.

It really helps us with the Bailey Road bridge situation. It appears we should be able to fund Baily Road Bridge from the unassigned fund balance and with the ARPA funds (\$150,000). Jim Giguere said he took a look at the bridge and it really has to happen. Chair stated the BoS will put it out to bid, we do have to do it, if we can get Federal funds, that will be looked into, he looked at it as well and the temporary fix with cement won't hold and the good news is we have the revenue and it came in at the right time.

Chair stated we should be able to fund the Trust Funds same as last year with some funding from the excess operating budget.

Chair stated he is handing out the packets for the nonprofits and asked the Committee to look through them prior to the meeting when they will be presenting to the board on November 30th, Starting Point, White Horse and the Freedom Food Pantry as the known presentations to date. Chair stated, we are going through the budgets aggressively and may be able to cut a meeting or two from the schedule.

Next Meeting:

The Next Budget Meeting is scheduled for November 23, 2021

Motion Vote to adjourn 7:40 PM by Theresa Swanick, Chair Strauss 2nd, Leo Racine – aye, Jay Krysa –aye, Jim Giguere-aye. (Passed 5-0)