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Effingham Budget Committee Minutes

68 School St, Effingham

November 23, 2021

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

Absent: Tom Hart

Others present: Chuck Fuller, Westie Krysa, Audrey Fraizer, Rosemarie Wissenbach, Lenny Espie, Lawrence Edwards, Linda Edwards, Erik Jones

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 November 16, 2021, Leo Racine 2nd the motion. Roll call vote: Leo Racine-aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Theresa Swanick –aye, Jim Giguere-aye, David Garceau- abstain Dave Strauss-aye. The motion passed (5-0)

Board Business:

4323 Solid Waste Collection: Chair Strauss made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$95,620, Theresa Swanick 2nd. Chair stated this is a level budget from last year. Leo asked how much money is collected. Selectman Fuller stated from \$15000 to \$17,000, with mid \$30,000 in the Trust Fund slated for emergencies.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for the budget as submitted: Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Dave Strauss-aye (passed 6-0)

4324 Solid Waste Disposal: Chair made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$76,990, Theresa Swanick 2nd. Chair asked if any questions. He stated a small increase by 2% for waste disposal. Selectman Fuller Stated we get paid for scrap metal, but we pay for the hauling.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Leo Racine-aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Dave Strauss-aye (passed 6-0)

4325 Solid Waste Cleanup: Chair made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$10,000, Leo Racine 2nd. Chair stated there is an increase from 2021. Chuck Fuller stated the increase is from monitoring wells. Chair Strauss stated, please see page 5, an e mail from HEB. (The e-mail states: the current permit requires annual PFAS monitoring at 4 wells, and this year we need to complete the routine groundwater monitoring in 5 wells). The \$10k budget will cover all necessary testing as well as HEB's time for the completing the required reporting and landfill post closure inspections. Selectman Fuller said there are only trace amounts in 2 out of the 5 wells. Chair asked if there are any further questions

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Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for the budget as submitted: Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Dave Strauss-aye (passed 6-0)

4152 Assessing: Chair stated, please change the amount under software from \$2500 to \$4500, as the BOS voted today to add \$2000, the total being \$38,400. Chair Strauss made a motion to approve budget as submitted for \$38,400, Jay Krysa 2nd. Audrey detailed the additional cost is for Kiosk resident access. Chair asked is there any further questions.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for budget as submitted: Leo Racine-aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Dave Strauss-aye (passed 6-0)

4153 Legal: Chair made a motion to approve as submitted for \$40,000, Jay Krysa 2nd. Leo Racine asked the reason for the increase? Selectman Fuller stated every year the budget goes over, we incur more legal fees and more will be incurred due to stronger enforcement, we are over \$4259 as of November 4, we do obtain a lot of free legal advice from NHMA, which we pay \$1800 dues to belong to. Chair stated any board or committee can use NHMA. The invoices of charges were reviewed and appeared to be correct. Chair asked any further questions?

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for the budget as submitted: Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Dave Strauss-aye (passed 6-0)

4215 EMS Contract: Chair Strauss made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$89,000, Leo Racine 2nd. Chair stated the figure may change; this is a best guess. Selectman Fuller stated it could go up to \$115,000 by the time we are done, up 3% from last year, the real number last year was \$122,000, but the co-op did not meet to change the percentage. It was detailed that the yearly co-op percentage adjustment was a verbal agreement between the towns and not written into the contract. The \$89,000 requested is the stated amount we are required to pay this coming year per the contract. Chair stated, it is worth holding off and readjusting in January.

Leo Racine asked about Green Mountain Treatment Center reimbursement? Chuck stated 28% of calls go to GMTC at a set rate, which is reimbursed a quarter in arrears to the General Fund, usually \$4-5000 a quarter, also the GMTC numbers are posted on the Town website. Theresa Swanick suggested we leave it for now because of the offsets. Chuck stated the contract changes every year in March or April; their contract actually runs from May to April. Chair asked if there are any further questions.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for the budget as submitted: Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Dave Strauss-aye (passed 6-0)

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4130 Executive: Chair Strauss stated there are 3-line-item changes and the board of selectman (BoS) need to approve before we debate/vote: Town Administrator changed to \$53,690, Assessing decrease to \$23,712 and reduced to \$910, the total being \$162,500.

Selectman Fuller motioned to approve 4130, year 2022 in the amount of \$162,500, Lenny Espie 2nd.

BoS Motion Vote: Selectman Fuller asked all those in favor. Fuller aye, Lenny Espie-aye (passed 2-0)

Chair Strauss made a motion to approve the amount of \$162,500, Jay Krysa 2nd. It was noted this budget was not bottom line increased from last year. The Town Administrator was able to delete the temporary help that was in last year's budget and increase hours in the regular staff.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for the budget as submitted: Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Dave Strauss-aye (passed 6-0)

4194 Municipal Buildings: Chair Strauss made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for the amount of \$73,000, Leo Racine 2nd. Leo asked the reason for the fuel increase. Chair said the prices have gone crazy, as of November 4th we are at \$8100. Leo asked if there is a breakdown for each building which was detailed in the budget to actual. Chair asked if there are any other questions. Erik Jones asked if municipalities' pre pay for fuel. Selectman Fuller stated that we pay by location with Our Town, volume by location. Theresa asked if there was a state program. Chuck said the State doesn't do it, only for State buildings. Theresa thought there was a municipality rate. Chuck stated that Our Town would not consolidate all buildings. Chair asked if there are any further questions.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for the budget as submitted: Theresa Swanick-aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, David Strauss-aye (passed 6-0)

4411 Health Administration: Chair Strauss motioned to approve the budget as submitted in the amount of \$7800, Theresa Swanick 2nd.

Chair stated this is the first year and is new that the BOS is not controlling the Health Administration, we are calling this a stipend, he feels we need to look at the stipend, a volunteer position, now requesting a stipend. Theresa stated she believes there should be a stipend after an amount of time, committees don't receive a stipend, but it should be something. Selectman Fuller said the amount requested won't come close to covering the amount of time spent. Chair Strauss said this is not an hourly position, a person volunteered and now to compensate. Jim Giguere wants to know how much work is put forth. Dave Garceau stated there is a lot more work with septic and sewage code enforcement, junk yards, etc. Chair said we should talk about a small stipend. Jim Giguere asked why it was not left to the BOS. Selectman Fuller stated there was no activity in managing it, as we have not been State compliant for years. Little to no enforcement since the new codes in 2002, now we are beginning to enforce it, there is more to manage in our town. Theresa said the Zoning Officer assistant

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could maybe take on some of this role, as they have a stipend, maybe talk about a different number. Selectman Fuller said there are Court cases and State levels that need to be compliant. Jay Krysa said if the State requests it, we do need to get into compliance. Chair asked if we should compensate a volunteer position. Selectman Fuller stated the BOS has been unable to manage the Health Administration. Theresa asked if the BOS agreed to pay? Leo Racine asked what the anticipated hours for the positions are per week? David Garceau said with nothing ever done, they are working on old issues to make the Town compliant. Chuck stated as of a year ago there are 10 junkyards, down to 6 now and 3 are in Court, there is a problem with RV permits, people using them as annual, instead of seasonal, with no septic system identified. Leo said we reduced the treasurer 50%. Selectman Fuller stated everyone needs to understand, these positions are 24/7. Theresa said we need to agree on an amount, 2 volunteers now, we should show our appreciation with something. Dave Garceau stated the BOS thought it is something that should be funded now and through the years. Selectman Fuller said other towns, have a code and health officer who works 40 hours a week. Leo asked if all of the BOS approved? Selectman Fuller said 2-1; Lenny, Leo asked Lenny is reason, Lenny stated that he thought it was high for just coming out of the gate, Leo asked what he thought it should be? Selectman Espie said \$1000 and \$500 and revisit it at the 1st of the year. Dave Garceau stated that there is mandatory training, a background check, the State calls whenever they need something, as in Covid, we had a campground with contaminated water, he feels these are much more than stipend positions and if you want someone to volunteer it will be hard to get someone. Selectman Fuller stated there just isn't enough BOS time. Dave Garceau said that some money needs to be generated. Chair stated on trailers with septic the ZBO can require proof according to their rules, he feels this isn't as critical as the Treasurer position.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in Favor of the budget as submitted for \$7800, Leo Racine-nay, Jay Krysa-nay, Theresa Swanick-nay, Jim Giguere-nay, Dave Garceau-abstain, David Strauss-nay (Not Passed 5-0)

Leo Racine motioned to reduce to \$3000 for the health admin and \$1500 for the deputy position, Jay Krysa 2nd.

Chair Strauss said that is a place to start at. Selectman Fuller stated the need to track hours for people to understand the workload. Leo Racine asked Selectman Espie if he had anything to say, he stated no. Theresa stated it is a mountain of work. Dave Garceau said they inspect schools and daycares in town. Linda Edwards (Public) said in the past the daycare was visited by Randy and he is doing a lot as far as Covid. Chair stated he deals with fire safety, he remembers when Henry Spencer was on the BoS, he would do health officer things for the town. Selectman Espie said when he was Health officer; he visited the school, daycare and one family who had a foster child.

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for the budget at \$4500, Theresa Swanick –aye, Leo Racine-aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Jim Giguere-nay, David Strauss-nay , Dave Garceau-abstain (pass 3-2)

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4520 Parks and Recreation: Chair Strauss motioned to approve the budget as submitted in the amount of \$30,000, Leo Racine 2nd.

Chair stated, please see Chuck's memo on page 14 in regards to meeting with Matt Sawyer, Ossipee Town administrator. We know an increase has been in the works since 2018 when Melissa Seaman's worked with Ossipee and brought the figure down. Jim Giguere stated he feels we are between a rock and a hard place. Chair stated if we don't support this, the children cannot go to the Town of Ossipee. Selectman Fuller stated Ossipee first asked for \$50K and negotiations brought that down to \$30k. Theresa asked if this could be made into a warrant article? Jim Giguere asked what Freedom does? Erik Jones (Public) stated, they have their own Rec Department, they own their school, our school does not belong to us, he remembers the Town arguing about the Rec Dept since the 80s. Theresa stated what if the Town doesn't support this? She does not feel comfortable without getting the public's opinion. Jim Giguere said we owe it to the Town to look at other options. Dave Garceau asked how many children? Chair stated under 260. Chuck stated 22 to 24 children in town are home schooled. Theresa asked if the BOS would be willing to call the Town of Freedom. Chuck stated this would not be done before town meeting. Chair said we are concerned about the increase and would like alternatives to be looked at but it is felt we do not have sufficient time for this budget year. Theresa asked if we could put it off until the next meeting. Dave Garceau said we could let them know we are not approving this amount and see if they will come down?

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss asked all in favor for the budget at \$30,000 Leo Racine-nay, Jay Krysa-nay, Theresa Swanick-nay, Jim Giguere-nay, Dave Garceau-nay, David Strauss-nay (Not Passed 6-0)

Motion Vote: Chair Strauss motioned to reduce submitted amount to last years \$10,000, Leo Racine 2nd. Leo Racine-aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, David Strauss-aye. (pass 6-0)

Chair asked if any public questions or comments? Erik Jones asked if we need an amount in the line to hold the line? Chair Strauss stated the vote came back as approval of \$10,000 which can be adjusted at town meeting if they so desire.

Chair stated next week we will have a new budget to actual, a visit from 3 nonprofits, each being 10 to 15 minutes, the last one being at 6:40pm, starting at 6:15, 6:30 and then 6:40, and there could be some more come forward, we can go over and listen/debate.

Next Meeting:

The next Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for November 30th @ 6pm.

Adjournment:

Leo Racine Motioned to adjourn @ 740pm, Jay Krysa-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, David Strauss-aye. (pass 6-0) .