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## **Effingham Budget Committee Minutes**

**68 School St, Effingham**

**January 04, 2022**

**Members present:** Dave Strauss (chair), Leo Racine (Vice Chair), David Garceau, Jim Giguere, Theresa Swanick, Lenny Espie (Selectman's Representative)

**Absent:** Jay Krysa

**Others present:** Audrey Frazier (Town Administrator), Chuck Fuller (Selectman), and members of the public; Erik Jones, Steve Regal, and Rosemarie Wissenbach

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. A roll call confirmed those present. Chairman Strauss informed the committee that Selectman Tom Hart had resigned and that Selectman Lenny Espie is replacing him as the Board of Selectman's representative.

### **Minutes:**

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for November 30, 2021. The motion was seconded by Dave Garceau.

**Motion Vote:** Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Leo Racine- aye, Lenny Espie abstain, Chair Strauss- aye (passed 5-0)

### **Committee Business:**

Chairman Strauss reviewed the projected increase to the Town budgets and the projected unassigned fund balance. The projected increase to the Operating Budget is \$262,144. He explained using \$250,000 from the unassigned fund balance for Bailey Road. The potential offsets of \$101,000 bringing the worst-case increase of \$161,144.

Chairman Strauss provided further detail on the Unassigned Fund Balance. The Balance as of January 4th, 2022 is estimated at \$1,130,039. The goal is no less than \$600K after amounts earmarked to usage. Next Week the Committee will have finalized figures to take into consideration. Mr. Racine asked about the figures on the bottom of the sheet, Chairman Strauss explained those are the form numbers.

The Police and Fire reports for December 2021 were reviewed next. The Fire Departments figures for November 2021 were replaced by new handout for December 2021 and date at the top should be corrected to January 1, 2022. Chairman Strauss reviewed that there were 259 calls in the 6 months daytime coverage has been put in place. Daytime coverage responded to 139 of the calls, just over 53% of the calls were handled by the daytime coverage. Chairman Strauss asked about one call with the address of Freedom. Selectman Espie explained it was a mutual aid call. Chairman Strauss pointed out

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that by providing the address on the report; it is evident that Town is getting value from the daytime coverage, especially in the area most voters who supported it reside.

The Police Department update on K-9 Officer Faro was provided by Chairman Strauss. Officer Faro has been certified in obedience, criminal apprehension and tracking. Although he is not certified in narcotics, he has been finding hits in vehicle stops. Town Administrator Frazier pointed out that because of Officer Faro's extensive training and positive hits that Officer Faro's positive identifications would hold up in court.

**4550 Library:** Chairman Strauss asked the Committee to revisit the Library budget. On October 26, 2021 the Budget Committee approved \$62,035. Since then, the library has the opportunity to install fiber internet connectivity and requested an increase of \$2,250 to telephone and internet. Ms. Swanick asked about the library getting free internet. Selectman Fuller explained the library speed was not free, to get the increased speed.

Chairman Strauss made a motion to approve the revised library budget in the amount of \$62,035. The motion was seconded by Leo Racine.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor for library budget in the amount of \$62,035, Leo Racine - aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Lenny Espie-aye David Strauss-aye. (Passed 6-0)

**4520 Parks and Recreation:** Selectman Fuller explained he contacted Ossipee and was told if Effingham did not pay the \$30,000 then no children from Effingham could participate. Chairman Strauss made a motion to approve \$10,000 be placed back in the Operating Budget for 4520 Parks and Recreation. The motion was seconded by Leo Racine.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor for placing 4520 Parks & Recreation back in the operating budget for the previously approved amount of \$10,000, Leo Racine - aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Lenny Espie-aye David Strauss-aye. (Passed 6-0)

**Additional Discussion:** The vote for the balance will be done at Town meeting. Steve Regal asked if the Town receives a list of how many children participate. Chairman Strauss replied in the affirmative, approximately 57 different children participate. Rosemarie Wissenbach noted less than one fifth of the children in Town participate. Chairman Strauss mentioned some non-profits provide some recreation. Dave Garceau expressed concern about the percentage of the expenses the Town is being charged and he asked if families can be charged a percent. Selectman Fuller explained the costs were still a deal, the

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amount did not include the public works costs. Dave Garceau asked when enough is enough, will the costs continue to escalate. Chairman Strauss asked if the Committee is still in favor of the approach of the \$10,000 in the budget and \$20,000 to be decided at Town Meeting. Theresa Swanick is still concerned the public isn't aware of the issue. As stewards of the \$30,000 she feels the Town should be made aware. Chairman Strauss said the Budget Committee is responsible. Steve Regal asked if Ossipee supplies attendance numbers. Chairman Strauss said the numbers were participants. Mr. Regal is concerned the cost is going to increase. He said Effingham has to keep an eye on it. Chairman Strauss said the Ossipee Town Administrator is going to come to the Town Meeting. Chairman Strauss feels the Committee is doing diligence by supporting \$10,000 in the operating budget and going to Town Meeting for balance. Jim Giguere said he doesn't like how it's going. Erik Jones feels the Town has had a bargain for years. Theresa Swanick feels the parents should be aware. Jim Giguere asked if Ossipee Recreation is going to notify all of the participating families that this is an issue. Chairman Strauss said that is what he understood from correspondence, Selectman Fuller disagreed. Leo Racine agreed with Chairman Strauss's interpretation of the email. Dave Garceau is concerned the entire Town isn't being notified. Jim Giguere said Facebook is the avenue to let the Town know. Jim Giguere recommended \$10,000 in the operating budget and \$20,000 in a warrant article. Chairman Fuller said the Board of Selectmen will consider it. Erik Jones asked for clarification; the Town would pay Ossipee \$10,000 if the Operating Budget passed and there would no further participation in the program if the warrant article was not passed. Selectman Fuller clarified the price wasn't per child, the original email presented a percentage of usage. Chairman Fuller said Ossipee asked for a flat amount. Town Administrator Frazier recommended the BoS set up a contract with the Town of Ossipee.

**4415 Health Agencies:** Chairman Strauss explained that White Mountain Community Health sent in a packet and requested to be included in the budget at the amount of \$2,113, the same as last year. In 2021 the Budget Committee approved funding at \$1,000.

Chairman Strauss made a motion to approve \$2,113, Theresa Swanick seconded the motion. Dave Garceau asked for clarification on why it wasn't funded fully last year and Jim Giguere asked about the services they offered. Chairman Strauss reviewed the ranking system and explained there are duplicate services from other agencies.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor for funding White Mountain at the requested amount of \$2,113, Leo Racine - naye, Jim Giguere-naye, Dave Garceau-naye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Lenny Espie-naye David Strauss-naye. (Passed 6-0) the motion failed (1-5).

Chairman Strauss made a motion to approve \$1,000 for White Mountain Community Health. Theresa Swanick seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

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**68 School St, Effingham**

**January 04, 2022**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor for funding White Mountain for \$1,000, Leo Racine - aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Lenny Espie-aye David Strauss-aye.  
(Passed 6-0)

**Bos Vote:** Selectman Espie made a motion to add in the 4415 Health Agencies line item for White Mountain by \$1,000. Selectman Fuller seconded the motion, the motion passed (2-0).

The total revised non-profit budget is \$22,530.  
**4196 Insurance:** Chairman Strauss made a motion to approve \$81,902 for 4196 Insurance which excludes the employee contribution. The increase is due to a second full time police officer. Leo Racine seconded the motion.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor for funding \$81,902 for 4196 Insurance, Leo Racine - aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Lenny Espie-aye David Strauss-aye.  
(Passed 6-0).

**4312 Highways & Streets:** Chairman Strauss made a motion to approve \$778,750. Leo Racine seconded the motion. Dave Garceau questioned if the road reconstruction is associated with Green Mountain Road. Chairman Strauss replied in the affirmative.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor for funding \$778,750 for 4312 Highways & Streets , Leo Racine - aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Lenny Espie-aye David Strauss-aye.  
(Passed 6-0).

**4155 Payroll Expense:** Chairman Strauss made a motion to approve \$92,000. Theresa Swanick seconded the motion. Chairman Strauss explained the retirement is due to a second police officer participating. The FICA increased due to part-time firefighters. Leo Racine questioned the retirement increase. Chairman Strauss said the NH Retirement System dictates the percentage.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor for funding \$92,000 for 4155 Payroll , Leo Racine - aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Lenny Espie-aye David Strauss-aye.  
(Passed 6-0).

**4915 Capital Reserve Funds, 4916 Expendable Trust Funds and 4901 Other Warrants:** Chairman Strauss explained these sheets are to be reviewed for discussion and voted upon at the January 11, 2022 meeting. There could be additional petition warrant articles; they are due February 1, 2022. Please review for next week for voting.

Chairman Strauss covered a few highlights from each sheet:

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### **4901 Other Warrants**

- Bailey Road – In a work session with the Board of Selectmen and HEB, the Town was advised the price would be closer to \$450,000.
- The Fire Chief amount is \$25,000 but \$16,400 is coming from the operating budget because the chief will work two daytime shifts.
- Green Mountain Road is two options – one for 2.4 miles or a 1.1 mile stretch.

### **4916 Expendable Trust Funds**

- The Library Equipment Fund was removed because it is not needed; the library has grants to cover equipment in 2022.

### **4915 Capital Reserve Funds**

- The Parsonsfield Mutual Aid increased from \$1,000 in 2021 to \$2,000.

The bolded figures identify the amount coming from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

### **General Information:**

Chairman Strauss also touched on the Budget to Actual dated 12/28/21, there will be additional expenses submitted. He anticipates the Town will come in below budget and \$33,500 will be able to be applied to the 2022 budget.

The Department of Revenue Form MS-737 will be in a draft format for the budget hearing. Like last year, the finalized form will be distributed after the public hearing and each Budget Committee member will have to come into the Town Office to sign the form.

### **Next Meeting:**

Tuesday January 11, 2022, anticipate a long meeting, Tuesday February 1, 2022, Tuesday February 8, 2022 Public Hearing for 2022 Budget, 5pm meeting/Public hearing start 5:15pm. Friday February 11, 2022 is weather date if February 8, 2022 doesn't occur.

### **Adjournment:**

Jim Giguere made a motion to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. Theresa Swanick seconded the motion.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor adjournment, Leo Racine - aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Lenny Espie-aye David Strauss-aye. (Passed 6-0).