

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved with changes \_\_\_\_\_  
Unapproved \_\_\_\_\_

## **Effingham Budget Committee Minutes**

**68 School St, Effingham**

**January 11, 2022**

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

**Absent:**

**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

### **Minutes:**

**Motion Vote:** Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for January 4, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Giguere.

**Discussion:** None

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor of accepting the minutes as written, Leo Racine-aye. Jay Krysa-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Chair Strauss- aye (passed 6-0)

### **Committee Business:**

Chair Strauss referred to page 2 of the agenda packet to view the unassigned fund balance of \$1,133,969.10.

Chair Strauss asked if all agreed with the presented estimate for the Un Assigned Fund Balance (UAFB) in the amount of \$1,133,969.10, All agreed amount seemed sufficient for UAFB usage budgeted.

Estimated amount budgeted for usage from the unspent 2021 Operating Budget is \$17,000 4915 CRF and 4916 ETF in the amount of \$16,500, totaling \$33,500. It is projected a total of \$120,000 will be left unspent from the 2021 Operating Budget after this usage. Chair Strauss explained the excess in the UAFB was due to unexpected back taxes being paid from 2019 and 2020. The projected General fund Unassigned Fund Balance is \$1,131,199.31, with the estimated balance after usage to be roughly \$556,199.31.

## **4312 Highways and Streets**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss made a motion to change the Budget sheet total figure of \$778,750.00 to \$528,750.00 for the 2022 Budget request, Theresa Swanick 2nd.

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**Discussion:** It was detailed that 4312 Highways and Streets had the Road Construction included (\$250,000) and this should be a separate warrant article just for Green Mountain road, the Selectboard agreed with this change.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor to change the figure of \$778,750.00 to \$528,750.00 for the 2022 Budget request, Theresa Swanick 2nd. Leo Racine-aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, David Strauss-aye (passed 7-0).

## **4901 Other Warrants**

### **Bailey Road Bridge**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve the budget of \$450,000, \$150,000 from ARPA funds and \$300,000 from the UAFB Theresa Swanick 2nd.

**Discussion:** None

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve the budget of \$450,000., Theresa Swanick 2nd. All in favor, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine-aye, David Strauss-aye. (passed 7-0).

### **Fire Chief**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to accept the budget of \$25,000, Theresa Swanick 2nd.

**Discussion:** Selectman Fuller stated they are trying to come in under \$25,000. It was noted true cost is \$8,600 as the contract for the Chief requires him to work 2 dayshift assignments a week. This 2 week work schedule is funded under the Fire part-time salary and the total of both is not expected to exceed the \$25,000.

**Motion Vote** Chair Strauss asked all in favor, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine-aye, David Strauss-aye. (passed 7-0).

### **Town Administration Benefits**

Board of Selectman (BoS) Chair Fuller detailed the calculations for the Town Admin Benefit should be changed.

**BoS Vote:** Selectman Fuller made a motion to change the Town Admin Benefit from \$7500 to \$7600, making the total budget page change from \$282,500 to \$282,600. Chuck Fuller-aye, Lenny Espie-aye (passed 2-0).

**Motion Vote:** Chairman Strauss motioned to accept the amount of \$7600 as voted by BOS, Jay Krysa 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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**Discussion:** Selectman Fuller expressed anyone with 35 hours or more are considered full time. Chair Strauss stated those are State standards. Selectman Fuller said the Town voted to offer this way originally for the Police Department.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss all in favor Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine-aye, David Strauss-aye. (passed 7-0).

### **Green Mountain Road (1.1 miles)**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to accept the budget of \$400,000, \$250,000 from taxation and \$150,000 from carry-over funds, Theresa Swanick 2nd.

**Discussion:** Jim Giguere asked what is the 5 year plan after Green Mountain Road is finished. Chair Strauss stated the next on the list is Elm St. Jim stated he was wondering what the plan was. Dave Garceau asked if there is a rotation schedule. Chair Strauss stated 20 years is the maximum, per the State, although 15 to 20 years for an overlay, we have 21 miles of paved roads in Effingham. Dave Garceau said that sounded high to him. Theresa said ideally it should be planned for 10 to 15 years. Dave Garceau said every road in town should be at a 10 year period and some would not be needed. Theresa said we should all go back to gravel. Dave Garceau asked if we should hold off on the roads due to the new infrastructure bill being passed. It was concluded we would not see that money this year. Chair Strauss asked, any further questions?

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine-naye, David Strauss-aye. (passed 6-1).

### **Green Mountain Road to Rte 25**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve Green Mountain to Rte 25 in the amount of \$625,000, \$250,000 from taxation and \$150,000 from carry-over funds and \$225,000 from the UAFB, Lenny Espie 2nd.

**Discussion:** It was detailed this would only be supported if at the 2/1/22 meeting it is decided the UAFB does not go below the \$600,000 estimated level. Only one Green Mountain plan would be passed.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss all in favor, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine-aye, David Strauss-aye. (passed 7-0)

### **Rescind Professional Contract Services ETF**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve to Rescind Professional Contract Services ETF in the amount of approximately 83.85, Lenny Espie 2nd.

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**Discussion:** It was detailed that this is in the operating budget under Executive and was originally established to fund grant writers for the Historic Town Hall which is not needed due to Mr. Fullers work.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss, all in favor Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine-aye, David Strauss-aye. (passed 7-0).

### **Rescind Salt Shed CRF**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve to Rescind Salt Shed CRF in the approximate amount of \$6,149.07, Jay Krysa 2nd.

**Discussion:** Theresa stated the trust fund was set up in case we n need another Salt Shed, she recalls the amount to be \$70,000.00, she was a Selectman at the time and wanted this fund set up so it was there when the money was needed. Selectman Fuller stated this has not been funded in several years. Theresa asked if the money was needed somewhere else? Chuck Fuller stated at this time we don't need it. Chair Strauss stated the Selectboard have approved to rescind it. Chair Strauss stated he would like to see the Capital Improvement Plan Committee come up with a plan for buildings.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor, Theresa Swanick-nay, Dave Garceau-nay, , Jim Giguere-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine-aye, David Strauss-aye. (passed 5-2).

### **Rescind Woodland Cemetery ETF**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve to Rescind Woodland Cemetery ETF in the estimated amount of \$10,392.31, Leo Racine 2nd.

**Discussion:** Chair Strauss stated the Selectman were agents of the Cemetery. Lenny Espie said this all started when Geneva Thompson, lots were sold to go into a trust fund, 90 lots sold for \$9,000.00 and were put in the trust fund. The town funds cemetery maintenance in the operating budget.

**Motion Vote:** he asked all in Favor, Leo Racine- aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Strauss-aye (passed 7-0).

## **4915 Capital Reserve Funds**

### **Parsonfield Mutual Aid**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve the amount of \$2,000.00 for Parsonfield Mutual Aid, Jim Giguere 2nd.

**Discussion:** It was detailed that this is payment back to our town for purchase of equipment for Parsonsfield Maine Fire Department, no tax effect on our town.

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**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine-aye, David Strauss-aye. (passed 7-0).

### **Fire Truck/Equipment**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve \$20,000.00 from taxation for Fire Truck/Equipment, Leo Racine 2nd.

**Discussion:** Erik Jones stated 2021 should be the amount of \$38,000. and is \$37,000. Dave Garceau stated the BOS approved \$37,000. and \$20,000 instead of \$38,000. and \$21,000. Chair Strauss stated the totals across the bottom of the budget page should be \$33,000., \$38,000., , \$39,000., and \$39,000.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor to update these figures and approve \$20,000 for Fire Truck/Equipment, Leo Racine- aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Strauss-aye (passed 7-0).

### **Police Cruiser**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve the amount of \$15,000 from the UAFB for Police Cruiser, Jay Krysa 2nd.

**Discussion:** None.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Leo Racine -aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, David Strauss-aye (passed 7-0).

### **Transfer/Recycling**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve Transfer/Recycling in the amount of \$2,000 from the UAFB, Jay Krysa 2nd.

**Discussion:** None.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor , Leo Racine- aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Strauss-aye (passed 7-0)

## **4916 Expendable Trust Funds**

### **Bridge Maintenance**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve the Bridge Maintenance in the amount of \$2,000 from the UAFB, Theresa Swanick 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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**Discussion:** Leo Racine asked if there was any bridge maintenance, Jay Krysa answered they did hose down the Elm Street bridge.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine-aye, David Strauss-aye (passed 7-0).

### **Municipal Buildings**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve Municipal Buildings in the amount of \$10,000 from taxation, Leo Racine 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Discussion:** None.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine-aye, David Strauss-aye (passed 7-0)

### **Computer and Network Equipment**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve the amount of \$2,000 from the UAFB, Theresa Swanick-2nd.

**Discussion:** None.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine-aye, David Strauss-aye (passed 7-0).

### **Police Safety /Protective Gear**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve the amount of \$2,000 from the UAFB, Jay Krysa 2nd.

**Discussion:** None.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine-aye, David Strauss-aye (passed 7-0)

### **Historic Town Hall**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve the amount of \$60,000 for the Historic Town Hall which \$10,000 is from taxation and \$50,000 from the UAFB, Leo Racine 2nd.

**Discussion:** It was detailed that \$10,000 was from taxation same as last year. The extra \$50,000 was from the UAFB for repair of foundation structural damage which was recently found.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine-aye, David Strauss-aye (passed 7-0).

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### **Fire Department Equipment**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve Fire Department Equipment in the amount of \$2000 from the UAFB, Theresa Swanick 2nd.

**Discussion:** None.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor, Leo Racine- aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Strauss-aye (passed 7-0)

### **Planning Land Use CIP**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve in the amount of \$1,000 from the UAFB, Leo Racine 2nd

**Discussion:** None.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine-aye, David Strauss-aye (passed 7-0)

### **Invasive Aquatic Plant**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve in the amount of \$2500 from the UAFB, Jay Krysa 2nd.

**Discussion:** None.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor, Leo Racine- aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Strauss-aye (passed 7-0)

### **Voting Machine**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve the amount for Voting Machine of \$2500 from the UAFB, Leo Racine 2nd.

**Discussion:** None.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor, Leo Racine- aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Strauss-aye (passed 7-0)

### **Emergency Management Generator Replacement**

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss motioned to approve the amount of \$2500 from the UAFB, Theresa Swanick 2nd.

**Discussion:** None.

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**Motion Vote:** Chairman asked all in favor, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jay Krysa -aye, Leo Racine-aye, David Strauss-aye (passed 7-0).

**Effingham Police Department Report for the month of December:** Chairman Strauss presented the report from the police department.

**Further Discussion:** The Town now has a K-9 website [www.K9fero.com](http://www.K9fero.com). Chairman Strauss stated the next meeting the MS737 will have more pages, warrants and MS 535 #'s for revenues will be added for the 2/1/22 meeting. Theresa said the final MS737 will be blank lines for signatures, you will have a copy. Chair Strauss asked if everyone was good with getting the operating budget numbers printed off into a PDF and we can make adjustments if we have to.

Chair Strauss stated we had a request to put information on Facebook, and the only thing he asked is that we put all of the information and Jim Giguere did a real good job. Jim stated in regard to the Ossipee Recreation residence support paying \$30,000., the response was overwhelming. Leo Racine asked how many responded? Jim Giguere said over 200, with only 5 people opposed to it. Chair Strauss stated the Matt said it should be in the \$60,000 range, he said he is in the office quite a bit and Dave Hines has many phone calls from the Elderly being unable to meet the poverty level of \$29,000, he feels the Recreation is hard to support at that cost, possibly look at increasing the Elderly Exemption. Chairman Strauss stated it is disheartening to pay \$1200 per child and we can't give a \$500 tax credit for the elderly.

Stated signups for elections are coming, two budget openings for election, Jay Krysa and Theresa Swanick.

Chair Strauss stated we would forgo our January 25th meeting and go with February 1st at 6pm; everything will be prepared and signed, with February 2nd as a snow date at 6pm. Public Meeting will be on February 8th with a snow day of Friday, February 11.

### **Adjournment:**

**Motion Vote:** David Strauss made a motion to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. Leo Racine seconded the motion.

**Motion Vote:** Chair Strauss asked all in favor adjournment , , Leo Racine- aye, Jay Krysa-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Dave Garceau-aye, Theresa Swanick-aye, Dave Strauss-aye (passed 7-0)