

Approved: _7/19/22____
Approved with changes: _____
Unapproved: _____

Effingham Budget Committee Minutes
68 School Street, Effingham
April 05, 2022

Members Present: Dave Strauss (chair), Leo Racine (Vice Chair), Jim Giguere, Steve Regal, Rosemarie Wissenbach, Vicki Kirkwood (Selectman’s Representative).

Members Absent: David Garceau

Others Present: Audrey Fraizer (Town Administrator), Chuck Fuller (Selectman), Lenny Espie (Selectman), JT Harmon (Fire Chief) and member of the public; Erik Jones.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. A roll call confirmed those present.

Election of Officers

Leo Racine made a motion to appoint Dave Strauss to Chairman of the Budget Committee. The motion was seconded by Rosemarie Wissenbach and passed 5-0.

Rosemarie Wissenbach made a motion to appoint Leo Racine to the position of Vice Chairman. The motion was seconded by Steve Regal and passed 5-0.

Dave Strauss asked for a volunteer for Recording Secretary, only to record the motions and votes. Rosemarie Wissenbach offered to fill the roll. Leo Racine made a motion to appoint Rosemarie Wissenbach to the position of Recording Secretary. The motion was seconded by Dave Strauss and passed (5-0). It was detailed that Darlene McWhirter our Town Administrator assistant would be transcribing the minutes from the recording if she could not physically be present.

Minutes

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for February 8, 2022 as written. The motion was seconded by Leo Racine.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, new members recused from voting Steve Regal, Rosemarie Wissenbach, and Vicki Kirkwood (passed 3-0-0).

Public Comment

Mr. Jones pointed out the new members didn’t need to recuse themselves. Chair Strauss asked if Mr. Jones would find that information and forwarded it to him.

Board Business

Chairman Strauss mentioned the amount of outstanding taxes is greater than \$400K. He said there was a downward trend in 2021 but it is starting to creep back up.

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Chairman Strauss said the Budget Committee will primarily focus on the new additions to the budget. These include the Health Officer and Recreation.

Chair Strauss went over the Budget Committee process and the duties of the Committee.

Chairman Strauss addressed the recent Board of Selectman's decision to pay fire personnel an hourly rate based on the point system established and approved by the Board of Selectmen. He asked Chief Harmon if the pay structure was in place currently. Chief Harmon answered in the affirmative. There was a lengthy discussion on the cost of the fire service going forward.

Chairman Strauss discussed the Health Officer budget amount. In 2022 there should be a basis for the amount and the number of hours. Selectman Fuller agreed that there would be a better tracking in 2022.

Chairman Strauss discussed the Recreation Funding and the need for a contract and possibly cost sharing. He shared that he had spoken with five (5) communities regarding their cost sharing amounts.

Chairman Strauss reviewed expectations 2023 budget and the budget committee process instructions.

Chairman Strauss reviewed unassigned fund balance calculation and expected the \$600,000 mark estimated should be in the ball park for the start of next year.

The board reviewed the latest Budget vs Actual for 2022 and the draft meeting schedule for the 2023 budget.

Next Budget Meeting

July 19, 2022 @ 6pm

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by David Strauss at 7:27 The motion was seconded by Leo Racine and passed 6-0.