

Approved: _____
Approved with changes _____
Unapproved _____

Effingham Budget Committee Minutes

68 School St, Effingham

October 25, 2022

Members present: Dave Strauss (chair), Leo Racine (Vice Chair), Jim Giguere, Rosemarie Wissenbach, David Garceau, Vicki Kirkwood (Selectman's Representative).

Members Absent: Steve Regal

Others present: Audrey Fraizer Town Administrator, Chuck Fuller Selectmen, Rebecca Boyden, Emelyn Albert, Deanna Amaral, Carol Pfister, Elaine Chick, Lenny Espie Selectmen, Susan Slack, Jim Pittman, Grace Fuller, Amanda Stevens

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

A roll call confirmed those present.

Minutes:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve as written. The motion was seconded by Rosemarie Wissenbach.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-aye, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).

Board Business:

Chair covered the unassigned fund balance to date which is projected just over \$800,000. He gave an estimate of the expected budget increase in the range of \$0.37/thousand for the estimated town side increase this year. He detailed how the motion vote was to be taken.

Chair handed out the received nonprofit packets. There are two nonprofits that the board didn't receive requests for funds from, they are the American Red Cross, and White Horse Addiction Center. Leo asked what the deadline for submitting requests was; Dave Strauss said the deadline ended about three weeks ago. Each nonprofit organization may do a presentation.

4191 Zoning Officer budget:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$28,172, Leo Racine seconded the motion.

Dave Strauss explained that the field inspector's hours are 8 hours and that will be offset by an 8 hour reduction in Assessing. Leo then asked how many hours a week Rebecca would be working, to which she replied she has been working 10 but it will be increased to 12. Part of the increase in budget is due to the cost-of-living increase. The Selectmen had reviewed and approved of the budget.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 5-1-0).

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4611 Conservation Commission Budget:

Motion to approve the budget for \$4,355 made by Dave Strauss. Seconded by Rosemarie.

Dave Strauss asked Emelyn if she wanted to give the board any details on her budget, to which she replied they increased the land improvement budget by \$500, and the water testing by \$30. Dave Garceau asked what the plan for land improvement was for this year. Emelyn explained that it would be working on the trails. Covered the savings balance which was \$11,175. Noted current budget was overspent by just over \$400. Jack detailed he is working with Audrey to correct a charge.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).

4150 Financial Administration-Tax Collector:

Dave explained the biggest thing in Deanna's budget for this year is the request for an assistant which will be covered in the tax collector and town clerk budget 50/50. Assistant salary adjusted to 42 weeks since someone can't be hired until after the town meeting, so the salary equals out to be \$1,344 for part time this year. Next year at the town meeting the position can be bumped up to full time. The total for the assistant salary is \$4,140 since its split between the tax collector and town clerk.

Motion made by Dave to approve the \$43,376 budget. Seconded by Leo.

Continued debate about what the budget is with the adjustments. The adjustment is \$42,016.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget of \$43,376.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-nay, Chair Strauss-nay, Jim Giguere-nay, Rosemarie Wissenbach-nay, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-nay (failed 6-0-0).

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the adjusted budget to \$42,016. Seconded by leo.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).

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4140 Election and Registration- Town Clerk:

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget of \$44,381. Seconded by Leo.

This budget will also be adjusted by \$1,344 due to the change in the assistant's salary.

The new amount is \$43,041.

Motion made by Dave Strauss for the budget of \$44,381.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-nay, Chair Strauss-nay, Jim Giguere-nay, Rosemarie Wissenbach-nay, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-nay (failed 6-0-0).

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the adjusted budget of \$43,041 Seconded by Rosemarie.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).

4141 Supervisors of the Checklist:

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget of \$2,080. Seconded by Rosemarie.

Dave Strauss explained that there will be an added line for a \$350 stipend X 3 (\$1,050) taken from the requested salary line. The salary line is adjusted to \$270 for budget sheet corrections. 1 election is reason to budget reduction.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).

4150 Treasurer:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget of \$4,535. Seconded by Leo.

Dave explained that the financial and banking line will be deleted for the budget sheet, and two new lines added for dues and training. The dues will be \$50, and the training will be \$150. It doesn't affect the bottom line; it just gives the budget sheet more detail.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).

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4191 Historic District Commission:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget of \$485. Seconded by Leo.

Dave asked Susan if she had an application that was coming up. Susan said no there was one at the meeting earlier in October. Susan then went on to say that dues will be coming up soon. They are working on revising their regulations so that would be the cost of notices for public hearings.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).

4191 Planning Board:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the \$6,947 budget. Seconded by Leo

Dave Strauss asked Elaine if they were still using Zoom. Elaine said no so that line gets knocked off the budget sheet.

Jim asked about the professional services line being double what it had been. Elaine explained they've had a lot of engineers, and wet land scientists out to help the board with certain cases. Dave Garceau asked if that money gets paid back, to which Elaine said yes.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).

4191 Zoning Board:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget of \$3,311. Seconded by Rosemarie.

Dave Strauss asked about the \$180 for computer services, to which Jim replied that he doesn't know what that went towards. Jim surmised that it might have been for Zoom. Jim told Dave Strauss they can drop that line all together since he didn't know what it was for. Dave mentioned the recorder line and Jim said it isn't necessary since a recorder was found.

Jim then brought up that he got an application from the Meena case so the possibility of the legal fees going up may be high, which is covered under the professional services.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget of \$3,311.

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Motion Vote: Leo Racine-nay, Chair Strauss-nay, Jim Giguere-nay, Rosemarie Wissenbach-nay, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-nay (failed 6-0-0).

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the adjusted budget of \$3,131. Seconded by Leo.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).

4550 Library:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the \$64,285 budget. Seconded by Leo.

Amanda Stevens and Grace Fuller explained where their budget goes, which is to programming for children and adults. Programs like help with homeschooling, book club, coffee hour, computer classes, summer reading programs, etc. As well as new computers and tablets. They then talked about the grants they have been able to receive for such things.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).

4151 Budget Committee:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget of \$1,312. Seconded by Rosemarie.

No discussion.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).

4619 Town Forrester:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget of \$1,000. Seconded by Rosemarie.

Committee noted the letter that explained the duties of the Forrester. All felt that this was a great deal for the town.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).

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4619.1 Other Conservation:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget of \$3,000. Seconded by Leo.

Noted this is for boat checks at the lake and the value the town gets by having a healthy lake.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).

4150 Auditors:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget of \$11,400. Seconded by Leo.

Leo asked if it was possible to get bids. Dave said it's less than \$15,000 and not required. This is a contract for 3 years.

Dave made a motion to approve the budget.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).

4152 Assessing:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget of \$39,250. Seconded by Rosemarie.

Dave explained that the \$30,000 is a 5-year contractual amount, \$11,000 for first 4 years with more added on for the fifth year for a full town assessment. Leo asked what the total amount is for a full assessment, Audrey answered somewhere in the 60s. Leo then asked if the town can go out for bids when this contract is up, to which Chuck Fuller said yes the town wants the board to go out for bids.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).

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Public Comment:

Chair noted no additional Comments

Budget to actual Review:

Dave Strauss explained there are still a few items which are outstanding. They are library carry overs, and grants which the Town Administrator is working on deleting.

Dave Strauss asked if anyone had questions to which Jim said yes regarding 4220 Fire and Rescue under new equipment its over 494.34%, is there are a reason for that? Dave Strauss says yes, the fire chief has a grant that's been approved by the state. That line is just a place holder for the grant money.

Transfer Station Committee Update:

Dave Garceau asked Chuck if he had anything he wanted to share, to which Chuck said that at the next Selectboard meeting they will be doing a short presentation on the things needed to be done and not done at the transfer station, as well as the copy of the report of the \$50,000 grant. Dave Garceau asked for a highlight of the improvements. Chuck said redesigning the concrete wall due to issues with the existing wall, pads need to be lengthened, roofs over some dumpsters. Dave Garceau asked if anything needs to be done with engineers, to which Chuck said yes.

Next Meeting:

The Next Budget Meeting is scheduled for WEDNESDAY November 09, 2022

Committee vote to adjourn

Motion to adjourn made my Leo at 7:44 pm. Seconded by Jim.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, and Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 6-0-0).