

Approved: _____
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Effingham Budget Committee Minutes

68 School St, Effingham

November 22, 2022

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

Members Absent:

Others present: Audrey Fraizer Town Administrator, Chuck Fuller Selectmen, Lenny Espie Selectmen, Mike Callahan Health Inspector, Erik Jones

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm

A roll call confirmed those present.

Minutes:

There are two changes to the meeting minutes for November 9th. The first correction shows the initial motion vote for Steve Regal as "aye", this is incorrect per recording and will be changed to show "nay". The seconded correction is to the motion votes, the spelling of Vicki Kirkwood's name was incorrect and will be changed to reflect correct spelling. Dave Strauss made a motion to approve as corrected. The motion was seconded by Leo Racine.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-aye, Vicki Kirkwood-aye and Steve Regal-aye (passed 7-0-0).

Board Business:

Chair covered the new approved tax rate for 2022, with the increases as follows Town-\$0.25, School/Local Education-\$0.80, County-\$0.03. The overall increase was \$1.08/per thousand, bringing total tax rate to \$23.57. Dave explained that we will see an increase in the school budget next year due to a few factors such as the loss of funding, retirement and private school funding. By the end of December, we should see what type of increase we will be looking at for a year from December.

Motion made by Lenny Espie to approve the 2022 DRA preliminary tax rate. Chuck Fuller seconded the motion.

BoS Motion Vote: Chuck Fuller-aye, Lenny Espie-aye, Vicki Kirkwood-aye (passed 3-0-0).

Chair covered the unassigned fund balance to date which is projected just over \$835,000. He gave an estimate of the expected budget increase in the range of \$0.54/thousand for the estimated town side increase this year. He detailed how the motion vote was to be taken.

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4411 Health Administration:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$5,050.00, Leo Racine seconded the motion.

Mike Callahan Health Officer explained when he went before the board of selectman he had asked for increases for equipment, training, travel and hourly rate and the selectman opted to stay with the figures from 2021. Mike would like the board to consider the budget he has submitted for 2023, taking into consideration the vital role of the health Officer and how the legal hours could be less being handled in the district court for violations rather than thru the attorney. Mike stated that as of April 1, 2023, he will no longer pursue the position. Mike wanted to clarify that the position is not a volunteer position but required by the state under RSA 128 5A.

Chair would like to make note for the record that budget committee member David Garceau is also the Health Officer Deputy.

Dave G would like to add that they face hazards going on properties, such as insects, bed bugs, angry homeowners, sewage, disease, drugs and other risks. The hours do not show how much they have accomplished, with a major conviction on Town House Rd. shows that we have real departments to hold people accountable. Also, the fact that they can save money on attorneys. Dave talked about the workload for next year being a lot more with looking at RV permits, junkyards and failed septic systems.

A discussion ensued concerning Mike's past health official duties when he was a BoS (Board of Selectman) member. It was noted after his BoS term ended the new BoS asked him to continue as health officer.

Points were noted concerning the non-compliant properties in town and the difficulties for a BoS member to take the health officer duties on like in the past. Additionally most members did feel this position was a volunteer position.

Discussions concerning the record keeping of the health officer were debated.

Jim stated that he looked at the RSA128 5A paragraph 4 and it controls compensation of Health Officer which is at the discretion of the Selectboard. And answering the boards question RSA 128 1 that the Selectboard do not appoint a Health Officer, they recommend one. And if the town does not then the state has the right to do so after 15 days.

Dave S explains for years the health Officer has been under the Selectboard and one of the Selectboard members took that task on as part of their duties and received a stipend. The question is are the Selectboard able to continue these duties with everything that is now involved with the health officer duties. Are we eventually going to need to separate this position and will it be individual department. Based on the information we should be asking if compensating with a stipend is the correct method.

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Chuck explained that in the past when position was held by selectboard member, there was no enforcement of the Effingham Health Policy's and more laws have been passed by the state. With the number of violations in town Chuck feels there is no way that a selectboard member would be able to handle this duty.

Dave G states that this is a project still in its infancy.

Dave S has an issue with the stipend, where we have not increased it for other departments.

Rosemarie appreciates the summary reports the health officer presented but it shows approximately 20-22hrs a month expended which does not support the requested increase.

Leo looked at the hours and most was legal, and noted we would not see as many hours in 2023. Mike responds that there will be more site visits, reports, violations. Also, there will be follow-up needed.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve budget of \$5,050

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

4323 Solid Waste Collection:

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the \$98,069 budget, Seconded by Leo Racine.

Chuck explained a breakdown of the budget with salary increase of 3% being due to supplies, such as coats, jackets and boots are needed. Repairs and maintenance stay the same as current budget, so if any issue with compactor and maintenance is needed. Certifications are required annually to take training. Hazard waste day Lakes Region Planning commission puts a price forward for coming year. Mileage due to any clean up needed around town.

Jim G questions why Tamworth only has 2 attendants, and we have 4. Chuck replied that with the part we originally had 4 and went down to 3 but found that when we instituted vacation payroll, that put us in position of only have one attendant on duty. It was determined a few years ago that an attendant was needed on both sides of the compactor and a person in the demo area. Without a person in demo area materials that did not belong were being placed there. It is basically due to the workload.

Vicki states she has witnessed people placing trash that requires a fee and compactor attendant is unable to catch them and we are losing those fees. Dave G comments that the attendants help the elderly with their trash.

Motion made by Dave to approve \$98,069 budget.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-aye, Vicki Kirkwood-aye and Steve Regal-aye (passed 7-0-0).

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4324 Solid Waste Disposal:

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the \$77,090 budget, Seconded by Leo Racine.

Dave G had a question on what is considered electronics. Chuck explained TV screen, computers.

Steve R questioned the increase in tires by \$400 and thought we were charging and would like to know what has driven the cost up. Chuck explained change in tire removal company switch which has increased each tire up to a dollar. The town did not increase fee for tires. Steve also questioned increase to glass removal. Chuck explained increase in glass tonnage with two additional trips this year.

Leo questioned if we could charge more for tires. Audrey explained that we have increased the fee from \$3 to \$4 and that the town cannot make money on the fee.

Dave Strauss clarified that the glass is no longer taken to Wakefield and that it is all now going thru Waste Management, which brings higher fees. Chuck further explained it still comes out to same cost by ton and that the transportation fee increased due to distance.

Dave G asked if glass is considered a hazardous waste and is that why it is so expensive. He questioned if we could crush the glass and use it. Mike explained that Waste Management does this process and puts it in the landfill.

Motion made by Dave to approve the \$77,090 budget.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-aye, Vicki Kirkwood-aye and Steve Regal-aye (passed 7-0-0).

4325 Solid Waste Clean Up

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget of \$13,000. Seconded by Jim.

Leo questioned the budget on 11/2 only being \$2,425 and the reason. Response is the PFAS testing had not been done yet.

Steve questioned the \$3,000 dollar increase and Dave responded that it is due to the HEB consultation amount. Audrey explained testing.

Motion made by Dave Strauss for the budget of \$13,000.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-aye, Vicki Kirkwood-aye and Steve Regal-aye (passed 7-0-0).

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4194 Municipal Buildings:

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget of \$76, 600. Seconded by Dave Garceau.

Dave pointed out that the estimated amount equaled out on heating fuel. Also, the electric and fuel rates are not locked in and is floating.

Chuck explained that he learned this summer looking at Propane heating, we are receiving a wholesale rate.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the \$76,600 budget.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-aye, Vicki Kirkwood-aye and Steve Regal-aye (passed 7-0-0).

4215 Fire/Rescue EMS contract:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget of \$125,400. Seconded by Leo.

Dave made note that we do get money back from the Green Mountain Treatment Center for all the runs to facility. Estimate was about \$15,000 received. Chuck explained it was about 30% from March to December.

Rosemarie questioned is there is any way to show the money goes back into general fund.

Steve asked if it could be noted on town report for town's people to know. Dave explained that when it was first agreed on with the center to be compensated for runs, that it was explained at the public meeting and public hearing. Steve would like to see it on the town report. Audrey explained she can do a revenue break down on the report.

Jim stated that it would be a lagging finance. Dave explained it goes into the unfunded balance but we would still be taxed on the full appropriated amount.

Erik Jones questioned discrepancies in the amounts. Dave stated that he will double check that. Erik also questioned when the company changed hands, did the agreement carry over. Chuck answered yes that it did, it was a part of the legal contract when it changed hands. Dave G agreed where he was also involved in negotiations.

Audrey clarified that she shows in both copy's the correct amount as \$125,450. Dave states will need to kill original motion and remotion with correct amount.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the \$125,400 budget.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-nay, Chair Strauss-nay, Jim Giguere-nay, Rosemarie Wissenbach-nay, David Garceau-nay, Vicki Kirkwood-nay and Steve Regal-nay (failed 7-0-0).

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Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the corrected amount of \$125,450 budget, Seconded by Leo.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-aye, Vicki Kirkwood-aye and Steve Regal-aye (passed 7-0-0).

4130 Executive:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget of \$167,844. Seconded by Leo.

Audrey pointed out that she put in for increases for the Selectboard but they did not want it.

Dave noted that the hours for assessing has changed and 8hrs was moved to the ZEO page. Dave G is now 8hrs with ZEO and 16hrs with Assessing.

Audrey explained her office changed and now has a bookkeeper and office support person. Dave explained that you would not see anything under the bookkeeper line now that it is a part time position.

Erik Jones commented that postage will be increasing in January and July. Dave explained it was discussed in selectboard meeting and taken into consideration.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget \$167,844.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-aye, Vicki Kirkwood-aye and Steve Regal (passed 7-0-0).

4153 Legal:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget of \$44,000. Seconded by Leo

Dave explained that Selectboard has broken down the lines showing the departments where the legal is going. The amount is \$29,000 over.

Dave G and Jim asked are we factoring in the Meena lawsuit, And Jim questioned is \$44,000 enough. The Meena lawsuit is still in court. Vicki explained that the selectboard requested department heads to get approval for legal.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget of \$44,000.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-nay, Vicki Kirkwood-aye and Steve Regal- aye (passed 7-0-0).

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4520 Parks & Recreation:

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget of \$35,000. Seconded by Steve Regal.

Dave Strauss explained that he and Chuck have been involved in trying to get a handle on the increases. A draft agreement from our selectboard has been sent to Ossipee. Ossipee is agreeable to a \$5,000 a year increase until it reaches \$50,000 over a five year agreement. Dave states by going to the meetings he has learned of the other activities that are available to the adult residents, hiking trails, ice skating and public beach. We are unable to do the cost sharing at this time due the burden of how to get the pay, maybe we can get there in the future. Dave feels the budget committee should be involved to help control the costs as the town has spoken they want this.

Chuck explained the key point to explain at the town meeting is at any time both sides for any point and reason with a 15-day notice can terminate the agreement.

Steve agrees this is very reasonable on Ossipee part to help us help them.

Rosemarie feels the increments are the better way to go and still does not agree to increase where they are not keeping track of usage where we are the only town paying. Dave explained they are trying to rein this in and have accountability for usage. Rosemarie also questioned using funds from the unassigned fund budget. Dave explains the downfalls of using funds from the unassigned fund budget.

Motion made by Dave Strauss to approve the budget of \$35,000.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-nay, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-nay, David Garceau-aye, Vicki Kirkwood-aye and Steve Regal-aye (passed 5-2-0).

Public Comment:

Chair noted no additional Comments

Budget to actual Review:

Dave Strauss directed everyone to the budget to actual pages and any outstanding questions should be resolved, Audrey is working on them.

Audrey questioned the change to the capital reserve fund for the purchase of the cruiser. Dave instructs to go to 4915 and the cruiser has \$52,874.30 in the spent and nothing in the budgeted. It is throwing the total percentage off. Dave will go thru the questions with Audrey.

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Jim had a question on we have 14% of the year to go and 90% of the overall budget spent. Are we going to go over? Dave explained the operating budget is still 15% under. There may be some additional expenses that may come in but we should not be concerned until the budget is closed out the 2nd week in January and we are not leaving any excess.

Question if Whitehorse is requesting a donation. Dave said they are no longer asking towns for donations per the email from them.

Next Meeting:

The Next Budget Meeting is scheduled for TUESDAY Dec 6, 2022 at 6pm.

Non-profit meeting

Committee vote to adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Dave Strauss at 7:47 pm. Seconded by Jim.

Motion Vote: Leo Racine-aye, Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-aye, Vicki Kirkwood-aye and Steve Regal-aye (passed 7-0-0).