

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ 1/24/23 \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved with changes \_\_\_\_\_  
Unapproved \_\_\_\_\_

## Effingham Budget Committee Minutes

68 School St, Effingham

January 3, 2023

**Members present:** Dave Strauss (chair), Jim Giguere, Rosemarie Wissenbach, David Garceau and Steve Regal.

**Members Absent:** Vicki Kirkwood (Selectman's Representative).

Leo Racine (Vice Chair) - Late

**Others present:** Audrey Fraizer Town Administrator, Chuck Fuller Selectmen, Lenny Espie Selectmen and Eric Jones

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm

A roll call confirmed those present.

### **Minutes:**

Dave Strauss made a motion to approve December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Steve Regal.

**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-aye, Jim Giguere-abstain, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, David Garceau-aye, and Steve Regal-aye (passed 4-0-1).**

### **Board Business:**

The Chair covered the operating budget completed to date with the budget committee approved amount of \$2,114,713.00. This is an increase of \$105,297.00 over last year. The operating budget we approved and the BoS (Board of Selectmen) warrants amounts approved would be an increase of \$0.58 per thousand. This could change how we vote on the warrants and if any petition warrants are presented. The Chair gave an update on the UAFB (Unassigned Fund Balance) with current estimated amount of \$838,290.00.

The Chair went over how the process will work for the written draft warrant articles in the Public Hearing.

### **4901 Capital Outlay Other Warrants**

#### **4901 Elm Street Paving:**

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$400,000.00 for Elm Street, Rosemarie seconded the motion.

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A discussion was held on how it is determined which roads need to be updated, and that it is based on a Road Study Report that was conducted.

Motion made by Dave S to approve the BoS approved amount of \$400,000 of which \$150,000 is from the UAFB.

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

### 4901 Police Detail:

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$1.00, Rosemarie seconded the motion.

The chair explained how this will create a separate detail fund to help with accountability.

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

### 4901 Elderly Exemption:

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$4,000, Jim seconded the motion.

Discussion on how it is determined eligibility for the exemption and that the verbiage would need to be updated regarding primary and secondary home in the RSA 72.

Public question on if someone passed would the difference in taxes be passed on to the heir and it was answered that this would not be the case.

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

### 4901 Conservation:

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$1.00, Steve seconded the motion.

The chair explained that the conservation cap is currently at \$2,500 and they would the cap to be eliminated to add more funds for future purchase of property. The conservation fund has made \$13,000 over 16 years.

The discussion explained further how the funding is derived from a taxpayer taking land out of current use. The tax is based on 10% of market value. Conservation currently would only receive up to \$2,500 of the tax; they are asking to receive the full amount which goes to the town. The Committee debated the

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total properties in current use and noted the town does not receive property taxes on them. It was noted the properties in current use get a big tax break which is offset by taxpayer money. In general it was felt most of this money should be returned to the taxpayer and if a land purchase is needed donations and grants should be used more than taxpayer monies. The Chair noted the budget added last year a line item of land purchase to the Conservation Commission which was funded for \$1,000. Discussion ensued on the benefits of land being in control of the Conservation Commission such as preventing housing expansion and retaining vital lands.

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

### **4915 Transfer to Capital Reserve Funds**

#### **4915 Parsonfield Mutual Aid:**

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$2,000.00, Leo seconded the motion.

The chair explained this is the amount that Parsonfield pays back to Effingham for mutual aid and the monies go into the Firetruck/equipment fund.

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

#### **4915 Fire Equipment/Fire Truck:**

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$20,000.00, Leo seconded the motion.

The Chair explained fund is not sufficient and a grant would be needed for future purchase of a fire truck. Funding is from taxation.

Discussion on current fire trucks and that they are in good working order.

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

#### **4915 Police Cruiser:**

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$15,000.00, Leo seconded the motion.

The chair explained the trust fund balance does not reflect the true amount as the \$52,000 for the new cruiser is not deducted yet. Funding is from taxation.

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Discussion on a new cruiser and the fact it would not be needed until possibly 2025. Concerns on the cost of a new cruiser and if there is enough in fund when needed. Public asked how this aligns with the Capital Improvement suggestion, chair noted it is the same amount.

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

### **4915 CRF Transferring/Recycle:**

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$2,000.00, Leo seconded the motion.

The Chair explained this would come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. This would take care of any breakdowns that may arise during the year.

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

### **4915 Invasive Aquatic Plant:**

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$2,500.00, Leo seconded the motion.

The Chair explained this would come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. The fund spent over \$3,000 this year due to an algae bloom and the cost of chemical treatment.

Discussion on amount in fund and amount used is not reflected in current amount in fund as the \$3,000 bill has not been applied.

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

### **4916 Expendable Trust Funds**

#### **4916 Bridge Maintenance:**

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$2,000.00, Jim seconded the motion.

The Chair explained this fund is used if bridge needs to be washed/guard rail work done. This funding would come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

Discussion on process of who can wash the bridge and when.

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

### **4916 Municipal Building Repair:**

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$10,000.00, Leo seconded the motion.

The Chair explained this is for any building maintenance needed and to be funded from taxation.

Discussion on building maintenance.

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

### **4916 Computer and Network:**

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$2,000.00, Steve seconded the motion.

Discussion on equipment needed and that funding would come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

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

### **4916 Police Safety/Protective Gear:**

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$2,000.00, Leo seconded the motion.

The Chair explained the amount in fund and how it can be used up and that funding would come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

Discussion on equipment needed for K-9.

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

### **4916 Historic Town Hall:**

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$10,000.00, Leo seconded the motion.

The Chair explained the amount in the fund and how it will decrease. Chair noted that this is from taxation.

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Chuck gave update on the progress of the restoration.

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

### **4916 Fire Department Equipment:**

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$2,000.00, Leo seconded the motion.

The Chair explained that the Fire dept did receive a grant from the State of NH which lowered the Fire budget and that funding would come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

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

### **4916 Planning Land Use:**

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$1,000.00, Leo seconded the motion.

The Chair explained this is on hold but still can be funded for the future allowing the possibility of hiring experts or a firm. Funding for this would come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

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

### **4916 Voting Machine:**

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$2,500.00, Leo seconded the motion.

The Chair explained the importance of a voting machine and the amount that would allow the purchase of two machines. Also waiting for the State to give approval on acceptable voting machines. Funding for this would come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

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

### **4916 Emergency Management Generator:**

Dave S. made a motion to approve the budget as submitted for \$2,500.00, Leo seconded the motion.

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The Chair informed the board that currently there are 3 generators and the amount currently in fund. Funding for this would come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

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

### **4220 Fire & Rescue Ambulance Questions:**

The Chair went over the questions and answers from the Fire Department. The Chair has asked the BoS to make the information of the Fire Department having its own Ambulance known to the Towns people, so they are informed prior to the Public Meeting on the subject.

Discussion on concerns, how to approach, and if any motions need to be made.

### **2023 MS-737 Draft:**

The Chair explained how to look at the draft, how the process will work, key numbers and amounts. This will be a working draft copy. Questions answered on budget totals and how it can change.

### **Public Comment:**

Chair noted no additional Comments

### **Budget to actual Review:**

The Chair updated the status on fixes.

### **Public Hearing Meeting:**

February 8<sup>th</sup> (Snow date 2/9) at 5pm & 5:15pm Public hearing.

### **Next Meeting:**

The Next Budget Meeting is scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, Snow date 1/25.

### **Committee vote to adjourn**

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

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