

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved with changes: \_\_\_\_\_ 1/2/2024 \_\_\_\_\_  
Unapproved: \_\_\_\_\_

**Effingham Budget Committee Minutes**  
**68 School Street, Effingham**  
**December 5, 2023**

**Members Present:** Dave Strauss (Chair), Steve Regal (Vice Chair), Rosemarie Wissenbach, Vicki Kirkwood, Jim Giguere, Scott Hilsman and Leo Racine (Selectman's Representative).

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** Lenny Espie (Selectman), Chris Seaman (Selectman) and members of the public; Goran Romanovic, Doris Soris, Eve Klotz, Raetha Stoddard, Misty Rider, Melissa Seaman and Vicky Garceau.

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

**Minutes**

Chair Strauss made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written for November 21, 2023. The motion was seconded by Steve.

The Chair made a motion to vote.

**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Steve Regal-aye, Vicki Kirkwood- aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, Jim Giguere-abstain and Scott Hilsman-aye (Passed 6-0-1).**

**Board Business:**

The Chair welcomed the non-profits.

**Non-Profit Presentations**

**Health Agencies**

**4415 - Freedom Food Pantry** represented by Doris Soris gave her presentation per packet requesting \$6,000.00.

**4415 - Ossipee Children's Fund** represented by Eve Klotz gave her presentation per packet requesting \$3,500.00.

**4415 - Starting Point** represented by Raetha Stoddard gave her presentation per packet requesting \$5,106.00.

**4415 - OCC/Meals on Wheels** represented by Misty Rider and Melissa Seamons gave their presentation per packet requesting \$ 13,520.00.

The Chair informed each non-profit they would hear the decision via email and the final vote is based on town vote.

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**Unassigned Fund Balance**

The Chair Strauss directed the board to sheets in the packet with the Town of Wolfeboro's information regarding an article in the newspaper and how the town tried to use an anticipated amount with their UAFB to pay for road work in 2023 and how this was not allowed by the DRA. Chair Strauss used this as an example to help the board understand the UAFB and the process if any questions were asked by the public and that the Town of Effingham would follow the towns process and process instructions using the actual information from the Auditors report from 2022 to use for 2023 and the amounts for the UAFB.

**4442 General Assistance**

The Chair explained that the budget committee approved funding the amount of \$12,600.00 and the BoS has approved \$12,000.00, the difference being the added \$600.00 for the telephone. The BoS have decided instead of the Welfare Officer being an hourly position in 2024 they want to make it a stipend. The Chair went over the changes to add a stipend of \$4,500 to the sheet and stated the budget will still be the same and the budget sheet will be printed out for the public hearing. The Committee was satisfied with the change and no vote needed.

**Non-profit Budget review with BoS**

The Chair directed the board to the agenda packet and went over the analysis documents the board uses to determine funding for the non-profits. Chair Strauss explained that everything that has been approved is towards the operating budget and so far, the current increase is at \$.37 cents per thousand and the board had agreed to not go over \$.50 cents per thousand. The Chair explained the most amount that could be added to not go over that would be \$27,600.00. The Chair explained the first thing to debate is are we in agreement that the board does not want to go over this figure and gave a breakdown on non-profits that are not looking for assistance. BoS Chris had a question on sheet 6, that Children's Unlimited is listed twice and Chair Strauss stated he was aware. The Chair just wanted to make sure that the BoS was also good with the \$27,600.00. BoS Espie stated he was not but if it has to be then it has to be, that these organizations do a lot of good but would like to see it stay below the \$27,600.00. BoS Seaman agrees they do good but need to figure out where the \$.13 cents would come from and gave an example of Ryefield Rd repair and he would not like to take it from there and Chair Strauss stated that that would not come from there that is already built in. Steve stated to stay under the amount we would have to look at only giving meals on wheels \$3,000.00 and the Chair explained the rate sheet and funding the non-profits. BoS Racine agrees with Lenny and would like to keep it under the \$.50 cents and Meals on Wheels is a huge increase. A public question from Melissa Seamen asked what the amount Meals on Wheels asked for in 2023 and the Chair

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stated \$4,000.00. Melissa wanted to understand and follow the math and The Chair explained the calculation with the increase of \$.37 cents that only leaves \$.13 cents to keep the budget below the \$.50 cents. BoS Seamon questioned the figures and The Chair stated that is due to the Children's Unlimited is listed twice and directed them to page 6. The Chair went over the amounts by removing Children's Unlimited twice and confirmed the correct amount of \$27,271.00 and the 2022 actual goes to \$25,788.50. Public question from Melissa if this increase is on the operating budget and the non-profit warrant articles or operating budget and The Chair stated it would be on the operating budget and only if there is an increase at the Town Public hearing then that would increase that \$.50 cents per thousand. Steve questioned the non-profit with the warrant article would they go back into the non-profits next year and The Chair answered yes. Public question from Melissa on OCC and looking to see future strategy for the non-profit and The Chair stated that can be brought up at any time during or the selectman can put in a warrant article. The Chair went over line by line the suggest amounts to keep the amount at less than \$.50 cents per thousand and discussed further keeping the amount at \$27,600.00. The Chair also stated that the lines are listed in order by the rating sheet. Steve suggests that instead of Meals on Wheels to list it at OCC/Meals on Wheels and all agreed.

**4415 Freedom Food Pantry**

The Chair opened the discussion for Freedom Food Pantry, and all were good with amount and the BoS started the motions.

BoS Espie made a motion to approve the amount of \$6,000.00 and BoS Racine seconded the motion.

**BoS Vote: Lenny Espie-aye, Leo Racine-aye, and Chris Seaman-aye (Passed 3-0-0).**

The Chair made a motion to vote to approve the amount of \$6,000.00 as approved by the BoS and Steve seconded the motion.

**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Steve Regal-aye, Vicki Kirkwood- aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, and Scott Hilsman-aye (Passed 7-0-0).**

**4415 Ossipee Children's Fund**

The Chair opened the motion to vote on Ossipee Children's Fund and the board had a discussion on the non-profit rating sheet.

BoS Espie made a motion to approve the amount of \$3,500.00 and BoS Seaman seconded the motion.

**BoS Vote: Lenny Espie-aye, Leo Racine-aye, and Chris Seaman-aye (Passed 3-0-0).**

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The Chair made a motion to approve the amount of \$3,500.00 as approved by the BoS.

The board had additional discussion on the non-profit rating sheet and the possibility in future of adding columns for overhead and non-overhead ratings.

**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Steve Regal-aye, Vicki Kirkwood- aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, and Scott Hilsman-aye (Passed 7-0-0).**

**4415 Tri County Cap**

The Chair opened the motion to vote.

BoS Espie made a motion to approve the amount of \$3,805.00 and BoS Seaman seconded the motion.

**BoS Vote: Lenny Espie-aye, Leo Racine-aye, and Chris Seaman-aye (Passed 3-0-0).**

The Chair made a motion to approve the amount of \$3,805.00 as approved by the BoS and Steve seconded the motion.

The Chair asked the board if there was any debate, there was none.

**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Steve Regal-aye, Vicki Kirkwood- aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, and Scott Hilsman-aye (Passed 7-0-0).**

**4415 OCC/Meals on Wheels**

The Chair opened the motion to the BoS.

BoS Espie made a motion to approve the amount of \$8,600.00 and BoS Seaman seconded the motion.

**BoS Vote: Lenny Espie-aye, Leo Racine-aye, and Chris Seamon-aye (Passed 3-0-0).**

The Chair made a motion to approve the amount of \$8,600.00 as approved by the BoS and Jim seconded the motion.

The board had a discussion on the amount to approve and additional information was provided from the public by Melissa regarding the increase in the cost of food.

The Chair made a motion to vote.

**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Steve Regal-nay, Vicki Kirkwood- nay, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, and Scott Hilsman-aye (Passed 5-2-0).**

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**4415 Starting Point**

The Chair opened the motion to the BoS.

BoS Espie made a motion to approve the amount of \$3,000.00 and BoS Racine seconded the motion.

**BoS Vote: Lenny Espie-aye, Leo Racine-aye, and Chris Seaman-aye (Passed 3-0-0).**

The Chair made a motion to approve the amount of \$3,000.00 as approved by the BoS and Jim seconded the motion.

The board had a discussion on the amount to approve with additional information from the public from Melissa and BoS Seaman questioned how do you have further discussion on the budget for Starting Point and The Chair explained at the Public Hearing.

The Chair made a motion to vote.

**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-nay, Leo Racine-aye, Steve Regal-nay, Vicki Kirkwood- aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, Jim Giguere-nay, and Scott Hilsman-nay (Failed 3-4-0).**

**4415 Starting Point Adjusted**

Jim made a motion to approve the increased amount of \$4,000.00 same as last year and Steve seconded the motion.

The Chair asked if there was any further discussion, there was none.

**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-aye, Leo Racine-nay, Steve Regal-aye, Vicki Kirkwood- aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-nay, Jim Giguere-aye, and Scott Hilsman-aye (Passed 5-2-0).**

**4415 Childrens Unlimited**

The Chair opened the motion to the BoS.

BoS Espie made a motion to approve the amount of \$1,000.00 and BoS Racine seconded the motion.

**BoS Vote: Lenny Espie-aye, Leo Racine-aye, and Chris Seaman-aye (Passed 3-0-0).**

The Chair made a motion to approve the amount of \$1,000.00 as approved by the BoS and Steve seconded the motion.

The Chair asked if there was any discussion, and there was none.

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The Chair made a motion to vote.

**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Steve Regal-aye, Vicki Kirkwood- aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, and Scott Hilsman-aye (Passed 7-0-0).**

**4415 Northern Human Services**

The Chair opened the motion to the BoS.

BoS Espie made a motion to approve the amount of \$716.00 and BoS Seaman seconded the motion.

**BoS Vote: Lenny Espie-aye, Leo Racine-aye, and Chris Seamon-aye (Passed 3-0-0).**

The Chair made a motion to approve the amount of \$716.00 as approved by the BoS and Rosemarie seconded the motion.

The Chair asked the board if there was any debate, and there was a short discussion on the amount.

**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Steve Regal-aye, Vicki Kirkwood- aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, Jim Giguere-abstain, and Scott Hilsman-aye (Passed 6-0-1).**

**4415 White Mountain Community Health**

The Chair opened the motion to the BoS.

BoS Espie made a motion to approve the amount of \$1,000.00 and BoS Racine seconded the motion.

**BoS Vote: Lenny Espie-aye, Leo Racine-aye, and Chris Seamon-aye (Passed 3-0-0).**

The Chair made a motion to approve the amount of \$1,000.00 as approved by the BoS and Jim seconded the motion.

The Chair asked the board if there was any debate, there was a short discussion.

**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Steve Regal-nay, Vicki Kirkwood- nay, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, Jim Giguere-nay, and Scott Hilsman-nay (Failed 4-3-0).**

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**4415 White Mountain Community Health**

Jim made a motion to adjust the amount to \$500.00 and Steve seconded the motion.

The Chair made a motion to vote.

**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-nay, Leo Racine-aye, Steve Regal-aye, Vicki Kirkwood- aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, and Scott Hilsman-nay (Passed 5-2-0).**

The Chair stated after the following votes the approved amounts for the non-profits from the Budget Committee was \$28,121.00 and the BoS approved amounts were \$27,621.00. To make the updates to the budget sheets.

**Draft Review of Warrant Articles**

The Chair directed the board to the packet for warrant articles and gave the rough figure for the operating budget and put under budget committee line the approved amount as \$2,231,406.00 and discussed the sheets and what they cover.

**4915 Capital Reserve Funds**

The Chair made a motion to vote to approve the amount of \$141,500.00 as approved by the BoS and Jim seconded the motion.

The Chair explained that there was a question from Lenny if the Conservation was good with the amount of \$2,500.00, and after speaking with Emelyn the Conservation Chair she would like to have the amount back to the amount of \$5,000.00. The Chair suggested updating the sheet for invasive aquatic to \$5,000.00 and Town owned bridges to \$47,500.00 as it does not change the bottom line but first they would have to vote on the original motion.

The Chair made a motion to vote.

**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-nay, Leo Racine-nay, Steve Regal-nay, Vicki Kirkwood- nay, Rosemarie Wissenbach-nay, Jim Giguere-nay, and Scott Hilsman-nay (Failed 7-0-0).**

**4915 Capital Reserve Funds Adjusted**

Chair Strauss made a motion to approve the amount of \$141,500.00 with the adjusted line items amounts of invasive aquatic to \$5,000.00 and Town owned bridges to \$47,500.00.

The Chair made a motion to vote.

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**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Steve Regal-aye, Vicki Kirkwood- aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, and Scott Hilsman-aye (Passed 7-0-0).**

**4916 Expendable Trust Funds**

The Chair directed the board to sheet four and stated the BoS approved the \$81,000.00 and the total amount for the UAFB usage will be \$186,500.00.

Chair Strauss made a motion to approve the amount of \$81,000.00 as approved by the BoS and Steve seconded the motion.

The Chair asked if there was any discussion, there was none.

The Chair made a motion to vote.

**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Steve Regal-aye, Vicki Kirkwood- aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, and Scott Hilsman-aye (Passed 7-0-0).**

**Schedule Updates**

The Chair stated the Presidential voting is on 1/23/2024 and went over the updates for the schedule, with the snow dates moved to Fridays to avoid conflict with the planning board. The Chair would like to hold the public hearing on 2/7/2024 with a snow date of 2/8/2024.

**Reminders**

The Chair reminded the board the meeting date to sign the final draft would be 2/13/2024 with snow date of 2/16/2024.

The Chair asked if there was anything else to discuss and there was nothing.

The Chair also reminded the board to sign up by January for town voting for the positions open on the ballot.

**Next Budget Meeting**

1/2/2024 @ 6pm

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dave at 8:26pm and was seconded by Dave Steve.

**Motion Vote: Chair Strauss-aye, Leo Racine-aye, Steve Regal-aye, Vicki Kirkwood- aye, Rosemarie Wissenbach-aye, Jim Giguere-aye, and Scott Hilsman-aye (Passed 7-0-0).**