

**OSSIPEE BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 5, 2022**

Minutes summarized by Laura Nash, Budget Committee Recording Secretary, amendments are noted by ***bold/italic*** type.

**Call to Order:** Joe Goss called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – was recited by all attendees.

**Attendance by Roll Call:** – Joe Goss, Donna Gridley, Roland Millette, Donna Sargent, Dallas Emery, Lynn Parker, Jennifer Brown, Matt Sawyer Jr (Town Administrator),

**Absent:** Cameron Quigley, Brian Keyes, Jonathan Smith (Selectmen's Rep.), TJ Eldridge, (PW Director) and Andrea Picard (Finance Director)

**Regular Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes:** N/A

**Selectmen's Report:** Sawyer noted it's been two weeks so, there's nothing new to report. Everything is looking good.

**2022 YTD - Expenditure Report:** Sawyer noted it's been two weeks so, there's no new expenditure reports.

**2022 YTD - Revenue Report:** Sawyer noted it's been two weeks so, there's no new revenue report.

**2023 Proposed Budgets:**

- Economic Development: Matt Trahan, Chairman presented the EDC proposed 2023 budget of \$2,500.00 includes funding for their Envision Night and other projects that the EDC has undertaken like the sidewalks, street lights, playground, tax incentives, etc... and are finishing up with artistic Town signage. EDC has been working on the workforce for the valley, housing, and improving the infrastructure.

Gridley inquired about the location of the signage. Trahan said they've been in discussion with NHDOT on certain intersections, but no definite location has been determined.

Millette asked on the progress of a solar farm. Trahan stated there was discussion again at Envision Night for a solar farm and a hydro power at the Dam but after discussion with Jonathan Smith, the electrical lines along Route 16 would need to be phase 3 power. Sawyer continued saying that it would need several millions of dollars investment from Eversource, and the state has eliminated the tax incentives which makes the projects non-viable. Discussion ensued over the lack of Phase 3 power along Route 16.

Emery asked if the EDC has looked into the school systems being up to par to entice family with kids to move here and would the EDC be willing to help the Town groom the area around the Whittier Cover Bridge now that it's going to be closed to vehicle traffic. Trahan agreed the EDC would be open to helping the bridge area and the education system falls outside the purview of what the EDC is capable of being able to change. Emery inquired about a drop system for hydropower from the dam. Sawyer reported that it's not feasible after discussion with several sources and not enough water flow to benefit and maintain the project.

Goss inquired about the amount of town owned land around the bridge. Sawyer noted there is no town owned land, but the town has 49.9 ft right-of-way on both sides of road into the covered bridge and the town has some interest in acquiring some land from Bear Camp Nursey, if they were amenable to the interest. Goss

suggested a parking area, but Sawyer noted that discussion is way too soon, and the legalities are very involved at this point.

Goss inquired if there has been any updates on improving the rail system. Trahan noted per conversations with NHDOT over the rail trail, it's basically not going to happen because the state will not give up ownership of the rails.

Goss inquired if the EDC was apart of the craft fair at Constitution Park recently because it gave Goss the idea of having an area flea market on Sunday's opened to vendors, who would rent a spot to sell their goods. Discussion ensued over the possible benefits to the Town.

Sargent asked about the Boy Scout land. Sawyer commented when the troop dissolve they left the land to the Town. But the area is steep, and the only usable beach area belongs on someone else's property.

Goss stated the budget will be taken under advisement.

- Board of Selectmen: M. Sawyer presented the Board of Selectmen's proposed 2023 budget of \$19,920.00 is level funded.

A **Motion** by Gridley to take the Board of Selectmen's proposed 2023 budget of \$19,920.00 under advisement. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 7-0.**

- Legal: M. Sawyer presented the Legal's proposed 2023 budget of \$40,000.00 is level funded. The Town's new Legal Counsel is Matthew Serge from Drummond & Woodsum and aside from Police lawsuit which covered under insurance, there are no big case currently. Discussion ensued over the town's right-of-way at the Whittier Covered Bridge.

A **Motion** by Gridley to take the Legal proposed 2023 budget of \$40,000.00 under advisement. Parker seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 7-0.**

- Patriotic Purposes: M. Sawyer presented the Patriotic Purposes proposed 2023 budget of \$3,000.00 which includes a \$500.00 cost of materials increase. Emery inquired if the fireworks budget was going to be split with the Recreation dept. Sawyer reported that will be factored into the Recreations budget and Justin Chappee will manager the funds.

A **Motion** by Gridley to take the Patriotic Purposes proposed 2023 budget of \$3,000.00 under advisement. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 7-0.**

- Cemeteries: M. Sawyer commented the Trustee are present, but the Cemeteries proposed 2023 budget of \$43,745.00 which includes a \$1,250.00 Gas/Mileage increase. Telephone is zeroed because it's being moved to either Government Buildings or Selectmen's Office this year.

Parker inquired if the work is able to get done. Krystal Eldridge reported they have two part-timers to do the work. The equipment is working well. We purchased a new backpack leaf blower and some small hand tools, and one big expense was when the truck broke down. Parker informed the Trustee about some head stones at the cemeteries off of Brown's Ridge Rd. and the stones are stacked along the fence and is there a company that is used to reset the stones. Krystal Eldridge noted unfortunately it's up to the family to have the stones reset. Discussion ensued.

Emery questioned year to date that less than half the budget has been expensed. Krystal Eldridge explained they met with the two workers and when they return in the spring, their hours will increase to 25 – 30 hours week.

Goss inquired if Trustee are selling perpetual care when they sell a plot. Goss explained with perpetual care the money goes into a trust fund and the trustees are able to draw off the interest towards ground maintenance. Sawyer noted the down side is that interest rates are .05%. Goss discussed some of the benefits of perpetual care. Krystal Eldridge informed the committee that they need to start looking into land

for future cemeteries which the state calls “green burials.” Discussion ensued on potential other properties for cemetery use.

A **Motion** by Gridley to take the Cemeteries proposed 2023 budget of \$43,745.00 under advisement. Parker seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 7-0.**

- Treasurer: M. Sawyer presented the Treasurer proposed 2023 budget of \$8,230.00 which is level funded.

A **Motion** by Gridley to take the Treasurer proposed 2023 budget of \$8,230.00 under advisement. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 7-0.**

- Welfare: M. Sawyer presented the Welfare proposed 2023 budget of \$40,000.00 which is level funded.

Parker commented she feels people are not receiving or coming through the door at the right hours during the day, the week when their trying to work. She knows there are people who need help, or direction on where to get help which what that Welfare Office is for. Millette also has concerns about the hours.

Angela Eldridge responded as the Assistant Welfare Director, agreed with Parker but a lot of the Welfare phone calls come through the Selectmen’s Office main line and as the Assistant Welfare Director, she directs people on where and who to contact for assistance. AWD Eldridge commented a lot of times those seeking assistance do not qualify because either their income is too high to qualify. The Welfare Department is bound by state guidelines. If they make too much money or refuse to go to a shelter, there’s nothing the welfare department can do to assist these people. AWD Eldridge also stated for whatever the reasons their not coming in, their not calling for assistance. But AWD Eldridge responds to a lot of phone calls through the Selectmen’s Office, hands out applications to those who come in. She explained the application is several pages and seems very daunting and it turns people off because they don’t want to fill out all the paperwork, gather the information required by the state and have to return with everything and a lot of times they never return.

Parker requested AWD Eldridge to provide a census of the number of calls that come through the Selectmen’s Office, so the committee can have some idea of the number of calls versus those actually getting assistance.

Sargent doesn’t understand how the state is involved when it’s Ossipee money raised every year to assist these people. AWD Eldridge could not recall the actual RSA that requires municipal welfare departments to follow state guidelines.

Discussion ensued over when welfare assistances moved from the state level to being town run but still having to follow state requirements and guidelines, the percentage of welfare budget utilized has not changed, the people who are asking for assistance are the people just coming to town and those really in need of assistance are not asking for it, and state guidelines are behind the times.

A **Motion** by Parker to take the Welfare proposed 2023 budget of \$40,000.00 under advisement. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 7-0.**

Chairman Goss called for a motion on the EDC proposed 2023 budget of \$2,500.00.

A **Motion** by Gridley to take the EDC proposed 2023 budget of \$2,500.00 under advisement. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 7-0.**

Parker requested to make a comment on the Selectmen’s meeting which was held on Monday, October 3, 2022. Parker commented there were several attendees there to see the beginning budget process, which was on the agenda, but it was never discussed during the meeting. Come to find out the Selectmen had discussed it before the meeting. M. Sawyer explained the Selectmen have been discussing the budget during the work session for several years. Park challenged as to why was it on the agenda for 4:15 pm. Sawyer stated the meetings are held in the upstairs conference room and are filmed by governmentoversite.com and other locations are always available if someone cannot climb the stairs. Discussion ensued over trying to educate

the voters to go to the Selectmen's meeting but if the Selectmen's meeting are held at different times and locations and not according to the posted agenda that's difficult for voters to do.

Sargent requested to have the outside agencies packets for the meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Sawyer stated the packets are scheduled to be distributed at the meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> but will try to have them for October 19<sup>th</sup>. White Horse informed that they are not applying for this year.

Goss requested to have the Fire Precincts budgets ahead of time not just on the night they present.

Sawyer spoke with DRA this week on setting the tax rate. West Ossipee is all set, Ossipee Corner is pending two commissioners signatures on the MS 535 and the school system is about 5-6 weeks ahead of schedule this year. Sawyer spoke with Joe Deighan at Center Ossipee and the had to submit there signed version, which was done.

**Next meeting:** [Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 6:30 PM – Freight House](#)

**2023 Proposed Budgets:**

- Town Clerk / Tax Collector
- Election
- Registration
- Recreation Department
- Government Buildings
- Highway Department
- Transfer Station
- Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance

**Any Other Business Which May Come Before This Meeting:**

None heard.

**Adjournment:**

A **Motion** by Gridley to adjourn the meeting. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.** The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Board on –

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Goss, Chairman  
Budget Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna Gridley, Vice-Chair  
(In the absence of the Chairman)