

**OSSIPEE BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 27, 2021**

Meeting recorded by Angela Eldridge for Minutes summarized by Laura Nash, Budget Committee Recording Secretary, amendments are noted by ***bold/italic*** type.

Call to Order: Chairman 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, Donna Sargent, Lynne Parker, Roland Millette, Connie Billings, Dallas Emery, Jonathan Smith (Selectmen's Rep.), Matt Sawyer, Jr, Town Administrator, Andrea Picard, Finance Administrator, and TJ Eldridge

Absent: Cameron Quigley, WOFP Representative

Meeting Minutes: Goss noted there are no minutes for review.

**Selectmen's Report:**

Jonathan Smith there have been no changes since the last meeting.

**2022 Town Budget Proposal by Department:** Chairman Goss stated all budgets will be taken under advisement at this time.

- Transfer Station: Proposed 2022 budget is \$614,131.00

TJ Eldridge presented the Proposed 2022 budget of \$614,131.00 line item by line item. TJ Eldridge noted that hauling and dumping fees have increased dramatically. TJ Eldridge reported line item for wages has been reduced to \$127,775.00 by reducing the employees from 40-hour weeks to 35-hour weeks.

Smith explained this is due in part to the changes to the recycling process but also expects the wage portion of the budget to decrease more in time.

TJ Eldridge reported Hauling & Dumping is increased to \$290,000.00 because they are projected to go over budget by \$40,000.00.

Smith noted there was No Free Dump Day. But Emery discussed how busy the dump was during COVID. Discussion ensued.

TJ Eldridge reported there will be No Free Dump Day this year. Hazardous Waste Day is costly to Ossipee as the Host for food, drinks, and over-time incurred and unless other towns pitch in to offset the cost, Ossipee will not be hosting hazardous waste day this year.

TJ Eldridge reported the Transfer station will be closed on Thursday's but will be open all day on Sunday's. A 30-day notice must be given in advance of implementing, so within the next month or so.

Parker inquired what MSW stood for? TJ Eldridge and Smith commented its regular household trash, called Municipal Solid Waste. TJ Eldridge reported they are looking into only recycling all metals and cardboard.

Gridley wanted clarification on what materials would be recycled. TJ Eldridge reported mixed paper, plastic, and glass will go into the MSW and cardboard will be bundled. Gridley was under the impression that since they would not be baling that it would reduce work hours and reduce the number of employees. Smith explained by scaling back the hours to less than 35-hours under NH Law to maintain retirement benefits, this

a step towards reducing cost. By eliminating recycling, the Town could potentially eliminate 1 full-time employee by not replacing the position when any eligible employee retires. The Transfer Station could potentially operate with 2 FTE's and 1 PTE to fill-in while one FTE is off. Smith anticipates this budget being revised either before or at Town Meeting on the floor.

Emery inquired by increasing the Hauling & Dumping budget by \$43,000.00, does this take into account any other cutbacks to the budget. TJ Eldridge the Hauling & Dumping increase is offset by the decrease in hours and potential wages. Discussion ensued.

Billings inquire how do they plan to finish the scale house. TJ Eldridge and Smith noted there is money allocated for it already. Billings commented he believes the PT Wages are too low. Smith noted the wages are based on the number of vacation hours taken each year. Sawyer noted this is factored on 1,050 hours, which is more than half the calendar working year. Discussion ensued on the use of the PT employee.

Parker inquired if the Selectmen have considered solar system over the land-fill section at the recycling center. Smith stated he will contact the previous contractor who was looking for municipal properties. Discussion ensued. Sawyer commented they could also lease the land to very little cost to the town. Goss commented if the town can lease the land, okay but it does not want to buy the equipment. Discussion ensued.

Goss inquired with the reduction in recycling, is there any recycling equipment that could be sold to other towns that are recycling. TJ Eldridge spoke with a vendor who is interested in a block baler for aluminum cans. One of which has never been used. TJ Eldridge would like to get rid the old cardboard/mixed paper baler because they only use the new one. Discussion ensued over keeping the infrastructure until they get better numbers or the market changes and becomes beneficial again. Discussion continued over cost to bale, haul, and reimbursement. TJ will work this weekend to help fix the roofs on the storage trucks to get them through the winter. Discussion ensued.

- Selectmen's Office: Proposed 2022 budget is \$841,478.00

Matt Sawyer, Jr. presented the Proposed 2022 budget in the amount of \$841,478.00 with an increase of 3.48%. Sawyer read through each increased line item starting with Wages increased to \$407,371.56 or 4.77% based on 2% increase per union contract.

Smith explained per union negotiations union employees would receive an annual 2% increase or cost of living index whichever is higher. With some negotiating all parties agreed to the annual 2% increase verses the current 6% cost of living increase.

Sawyer continued noting that the employees benefits are essentially level funded, except for retirement which was increased last year to go into effect in 2021. Professional fees was increased temporarily during the pandemic for the Town Annual Meeting and retaining White Mtn Audio & Video but for 2022 it has been decreased to \$10,000. Assessor/Audit is increased by \$12,500.00 due to the increase of residents and people building this year has essentially doubled. The Town Report is increased by \$1,500 in order to have printed bigger pages. Equipment Contracts was reduced by \$4,400.00 based figures from year to date. Membership dues is increased by \$400.00 due to increase in several memberships required for certain jobs. Lakes Region Planning Commission membership dues increased by \$300.00 this year. Office Supplies is increased by \$6,500.00 due to double in cost for all paper products. Clothing/Safety increased by \$200.00, and Computer Maintenance is decreased by \$8,000.00 since computer software was upgraded but, cyber security is needed but is trying to not have any major projects this year.

Emery questioned Professional Fees and holding the Town Meeting at the school. Sawyer and Smith both indicated they don't believe it will be unless mandated. Discussion ensued.

- Conservation Commission: Proposed 2022 budget is \$24,301.00

Matt Sawyer, Jr. presented the Proposed 2022 budget in the amount of \$24,301.00. The Timber Monitors wages are included in the Wages line item but are paid from the general fund and does not come out of any of the Conservation Commissions funds. The Dam Authority is considered environmental per the DRA and was added to this budget as well. Krystal Eldridge noted supplies increased by \$50.00 and all other line items are level funded.

- Planning Board: Proposed 2022 budget is \$41,270.00

Matt Sawyer, Jr., presented the Proposed 2022 budget in the amount of \$41,270.00. Sawyer and Picard rebalanced the Boards and Commissions Secretary – Wages has a long history of over budget. So, the Wages line item is increased to \$20,000 to overt going over budget. Advertising is increased by \$1,000.00 due to cost and increase of notices having to be re-posted due to COVID.

Goss noted the increase of \$1,572.00 which is on Selectmen's Request should be on the Department's Request column. Discussion ensued.

- Zoning Board of Adjustment: Proposed 2022 budget is \$19,235.00

Matt Sawyer, Jr., presented the Proposed 2022 budget in the amount of \$19,235.00 which includes the annual 2% increase for Secretary's Salary and benefits. All other line items are level funded.

- Trustees of the Trust Fund: Proposed 2022 budget is Level Funded at \$6,091.00

Matt Sawyer, Jr., presented the Proposed 2022 budget is level funded in the amount of \$6,091.00. Billings suggested decreasing the Wages, but Sawyer and Smith declined.

Goss noted the Police Budgets were moved to November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

- Dog Officer: Proposed 2022 budget is \$14,350.00

Matt Sawyer, Jr., presented the Proposed 2022 budget in the amount of \$14,350.00. Sawyer reported that Joanne Gayer, Regional Dog Officer was going to stop being the Dog Officer. But Sawyer and Police Chief have come up with new expectations and a new rate by eliminating the flat monthly stipend and moving to and hourly rate. So, if she responds to a call she will get \$25.00/ hourly for a minimum of 2-hours. This will intensify her response to calls and more appropriate calls and de-intensify the police abusing her services ultimately cutting the budget by \$2,648.00.

### **Next Meeting:**

**November 3, 2021 - 6:30 PM at the Freight House - Outside Agencies**

**November 4, 2021 - 6:30 PM at the Freight House – Outside Agencies**

**November 10, 2021 - 6:30 PM at the Freight House –**

Long-Term Debt

Pre-Review:

Insurance

Fire Precinct - Center Ossipee

Library

Fire Precinct - Ossipee Corner

Fire Warden

Fire Precinct - West Ossipee

Ambulance

Emergency Management

November 17, 2021 - 6:30 PM at the Freight House

Revenues & Warrant Articles    Fire Precinct - Center Ossipee  
Water & Sewer Department    Fire Precinct - Ossipee Corner  
Police Department    Fire Precinct - West Ossipee  
Police - Special Duty

**Any Other Business that May Come Before the Committee:**

Goss inquire of any warrant articles for the Transfer Station. TJ Eldridge reported not exactly because their swapping a backhoe and \$300,000.00 from Highway Budget to pave the parking lot. Discussion ensued.

Gridley inquired of the rule for logging on roads. TJ Eldridge noted as long as it's NHDOT approved.

Goss inquired about Constitution Park article in the newspaper. Smith commented that Edwina Boose and her volunteer group went over and remarked the trails with new signs, Tim Otterbach built a new kiosk, and it was all volunteer work with no cost to the Town. Edwina Boose is interested in starting a Friends of Constitution Park in order to apply for grant money to help improve the park. Smith noted the park is not exclusive to Ossipee. It was federal grant money to purchase, so its open to anyone.

Goss noted with the Town growing and more properties around town are being overseen by the Recreation Department. Maybe in time for Recreation Commission with approximately 6- members to oversee and suggest maintenance and improvements to the parks. There are several parks around town and believes it's beyond one Recreation Director's control and it's time to get more people involved to help control some of the vandalism. Discussion ensued and TJ Eldridge noted the Recreation Department does not oversee the parks, Government Buildings and Public Works Department oversee the parks. Discussion ensued over forming an advisory committee. Goss wants the gate closed and locked at night and opened in the mornings.

Emery noted he spoke with someone from Effingham who would like to use the Dog Park, but it seems to be only Ossipee residents, but no one is maintaining the park. TJ Eldridge noted the dog park is not a town-maintained park. Smith noted there is a committee who wanted the park, and the Town has trying for a year to get them to maintain the park. Discussion ensued.

Sawyer noted the Outside Agencies there are 2 with increases, End 68-Hours of Hunger is increasing from \$5,000 to \$7,000, White Mtn. Community Health did not submit a request this year and Northern Human Services.

Discussion ensued over receipt of the outside agency applications.

**Adjournment:**

A **Motion** by Gridley to adjourn the meeting. Millette seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.** The meeting adjourned at 7:36 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)