

**OSSIPEE BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2022**

Minutes summarized by Matt Sawyer, Town Administrator; 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

Attendance by Roll Call: – Joe Goss, Donna Gridley, Roland Millette, Jennifer Brown, Lynne Parker, Matt Sawyer Jr (Town Administrator) and TJ Eldridge (Public Works Director)

Absent: Donna Sargent, Cameron Quigley, Brian Keyes, Jonathan Smith (Selectmen's Rep.), Andrea Picard (Finance Director)

Regular Meeting

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Kellie Skehan presented the TC/TC proposed 2023 budget of \$388,275 which includes funding to return to three full time employees. She emphasized that the current part time employee would only remain until the new full-timer is trained. Gridley motioned to take this budget under advisement. Millette seconded and the vote passed 5-0.

Skehan presented a proposed 2023 budget for Elections Department totaling \$5,615. Gridley motioned to take this budget under advisement. Millette seconded and the vote passed 5-0.

Sawyer presented the Registration Department's proposed 2023 budget of \$5,615. Parker called attention to the computer line, noting Sawyer's intention to merge all of these lines into the Selectmen's Office. Sawyer said he would remove that and represent it. Gridley motioned to take this budget under advisement. Millette seconded and the vote passed 5-0.

PWD Eldridge presented the Recreation Department's proposed 2023 budget of \$219,355, citing a huge increase in participation and need to have additional hours of part time budget available due to the large numbers of patrons. The Committee commended Rec Director Justin Chaffee (also present) on his good performance. Gridley motioned to take this budget under advisement. Millette seconded and the vote passed 5-0.

PWD Eldridge presented the Government Buildings Department's proposed 2023 budget of \$287,555 calling attention to the reduction in the Dam Maintenance line since we won't have engineering in 2023. Discussion ensued regarding fuel prices. Gridley motioned to take this budget under advisement. Millette seconded and the vote passed 5-0.

PWD Eldridge presented the Highway Department's proposed 2023 budget of \$1,398,350. Conversation ensued regarding the very sharp increase in cost of salt and line striping. The group agreed these are uncontrollable and necessary to have in the budget. Gridley motioned to take this budget under advisement. Millette seconded and the vote passed 5-0.

PWD Eldridge presented the Transfer Station's proposed 2023 budget of \$589,206. There was a brief conversation regarding tire fees. Gridley motioned to take this budget under advisement. Millette seconded and the vote passed 5-0.

PWD Eldridge presented the Vehicles and Equipment Maintenance Department's proposed 2023 budget of \$274,291. There was a brief conversation regarding the sharp increase in the cost of parts and tires. Gridley motioned to take this budget under advisement. Millette seconded and the vote passed 5-0.

PWD Eldridge discussed some updates to the ten-year equipment purchase plan. The plan going forward will be to utilize a single warrant article annually to fund the Highway Equipment CRF with a flat amount of \$200,000 starting in 2024. This will allow the Selectmen as “Agents to Expend” have the flexibility to purchase vehicles and equipment when it makes sense, as opposed to being limited to the timing of Town Meeting. Eldridge and Sawyer explained that the Board of Selectmen has authorized TJ to begin the purchase process of a 6 wheeled dump truck, knowing that if we don’t act now, we may not be able to acquire one for the next 1-2 years.

Next meeting: October 26, 2022 to review budget sheets

Any Other Business Which May Come Before This Meeting: None presented.

Adjournment:

A **Motion** by Gridley to adjourn the meeting. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.** The meeting adjourned at 7:45 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*)