

**OSSIPEE BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 4, 2023**

Minutes have been recorded for the convenience of summarization by Laura Nash, Boards & Commissions Secretary and are deleted once the minutes are board approved; any amendments to the minutes are noted in ***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, Dallas Emery, Brian Keyes, Michael Hunter, Susan McGuire – Doyle, Robert Roakes, Krystal Eldridge, Jennifer Brown, Jonathan Smith (Selectmen's Rep.), Matt Sawyer, Jr. (Town Administrator), and Andrea Picard (Finance Director)

Absent: TJ Eldridge, (PW Director) and Lynne Parker

Meeting Minutes: Review to approve Meeting minutes of September 20, 2023.

A **Motion** by Emery to approve the meeting minutes of September 20, 2023, as submitted. Roakes seconded. No discussion. All others voted in favor was made. K. Eldridge, Brian Keyes and Michael Hunter abstained. **Motion passed.**

Selectmen's Report: Jonathan Smith noted he gave a thorough report last week.

Matt Sawyer noted they have received the final report of the Audit results, which were very good with no issues. The Select Board re-adopted the Un-Assigned Fund Balance with a higher threshold because it has been built up so much. The new target is 13%, which is 2.1 million but their staying at 2.6 million. Jonathan Smith commented when he started they were at \$800,000.00 in the Unassigned Fund Balance and there not skimping on equipment, road or anything. They are spending smartly and did away with corruption.

2024 Proposed Budgets: Chairman Goss changed the order of presentation to accommodate those individuals who are present.

- **Library:** proposed 2024 budget of \$268,841.10

Jennifer Spofford presents representing the officers of the Library with a proposed 2024 budget of \$268,841.10.

Robert Roakes inquired if staff was added or is the increase due to insurance. Jennifer Spofford noted that it's all insurance.

Joe Goss inquired about the 11% increase on wages. Jennifer Spofford stated that's to match the current C.O.L.A of 8%. Andrea Picard stated that she hired a new person at a higher rate and insurance increased by 15.6% across the board.

Jennifer and Andrea explained the increase on line item of Library Expenses is so the Ossipee Library can register with the Carroll County Library Consortium. So, anyone holding an Ossipee Library card can visit other participating libraries and borrow books using their Ossipee Library card. There also looking to start a book mobile for the consortium.

Chairman Goss stated the Budget Committee will take the proposed budget Under Advisement.

- **Fire Warden:** proposed 2024 budget of \$22,070.00

Adam Riley stated the proposed budget was increased by \$75.00 for a total of \$22,070.00. But they are working

towards getting some surplus trucks.

Chairman Goss stated the Budget Committee will take the proposed budget Under Advisement.

- **Emergency Management:** proposed 2024 budget of \$6,700.00

Matt Sawyer stated it was not use this year but at some point the Emergency Manger's stipend will be deducted so, their requesting level funding for this budget year.

Robert Roakes inquired if the budget is not used during one year is it rolled over into the next year. Matt Sawyer stated no, and that all unspent funds are reassigned the Unassigned Fund Balance each year.

- **Conservation Commission:** proposed 2024 budget of \$10,350.00 is level funded.

Matt Sawyer explained that the Administration has decided to move all wages and payroll expenses for the Boards & Commissions Secretary under the Selectmen's Office Budget because technically she works for the town. Dues & Workshops was decreased by \$1,000.00 and Property Tax was increased by \$50.00. Dam Authority was increased to \$8,500.00 and all other line items are level funded.

Joe Goss inquired about why the Dam Authority's budget increased for this year. Matt Sawyer explained that John Picard submits the invoice to the Town but is sure how the Dam Authority splits the charges between Freedom and Ossipee. But with the \$1,000.00 decrease from the Dues & Workshop line item; \$500.00 was applied to the Dam Authority line item to adjust their budget to cover the increase.

Chairman Goss stated the Budget Committee will take the proposed budget Under Advisement.

- **Zoning Board of Adjustment:** proposed 2024 budget of \$3,400.00

Matt Sawyer stated and the secretary confirmed that the ZBA is requesting level funding for this budget year.

Chairman Goss stated the Budget Committee will take the proposed budget Under Advisement.

- **Planning Board:** proposed 2024 budget of \$11,750.00

Matt Sawyer stated and the secretary confirmed that the Planning Board is requesting level funding for this budget year.

Chairman Goss stated the Budget Committee will take the proposed budget Under Advisement.

- **Interest Line of Credit (Long-Term Debt):** proposed 2024 budget of \$30,000.00

Matt Sawyer noted obviously, we know what the rate is on the TAN is this year, it's 2 1/2, almost three times it's been. We haven't had to use the TAN the last couple of years, however, with the statistical revaluation this year it seems tax bills are going to go out late this year. Through no fault of our own but it's part of the DRA and the BTLA oversight that's a court order revaluation. Therefore, I calculated at 8.25% interest if we did have to take the full advance on the TAN of 2 1/2 million, it would run around \$14,000 a month and within a few months we could recoup the cash deficiency. So, I came up with the recommendation of \$30,000 and the Selectmen have supported the amount. Smith commented they would know by Town meeting and this amount could be changed on the floor.

Chairman Goss stated the Budget Committee will take the proposed budget Under Advisement.

- **Trustees of Trust Funds:** proposed 2024 budget of \$6,085.00

Matt Sawyer stated the Trustees are level funding other than the Select Board and himself would propose a 5% increase for some part-timers and elected officials who get a very stipend but have received very little increase of many years. The increase would amount to \$344.00 to their modest stipend.

Dallas Emery: inquired if this increase was just wages. Matt Sawyer confirmed that it's a wage increase for three people who manage 2.5 million in the bank.

Joe Goss: Inquire about the retirement line item. Matt Sawyer and Andrea Picard both explained that one of the trustee's is also a Town employee, so she has all the same deductions as a trustee.

Chairman Goss stated the Budget Committee will take the proposed budget Under Advisement.

Next Meeting: Chairman Goss announced the next meeting will be: October 11, 2023 – 6:30 pm at the Freight House

- Economic Development
- Recreation Department
- Government Buildings
- Highway Department
- Transfer Station
- Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance
- Cemeteries

Any Other Business Which May Come Before This Meeting:

Goss suggested the secretary to get a card for Donna Gridley to thank her for many years of service to the Budget Committee.

A **Motion** by Goss requesting the secretary to get a card for Donna Gridley to thank her for many years of service to the Budget Committee. Emery seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.**

Goss called for any other business. With none heard, Goss called for a motion to adjourn.

Robert Roakes, Michael Hunter and Krystal Eldridge announced they will not be attendance for the October 18th, 2023 Budget Committee meeting for various personal reasons.

Adjournment:

A **Motion** by Emery to adjourn the meeting. Roakes seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.** The meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Board on – October 11, 2023
Date

Joe Goss, Chairman

Lynn Parker, Vice-Chair
(In the absence of the Chairman)