

OSSIPEE BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 25, 2017

Minutes recorded by and transcribed 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 6:31 PM.

Attendance by Roll Call: – Joe Goss-Chairman, Steve Mosier, Jonathan Smith, Donna Gridley, Lynne Parker, Marie McConarty, Louise Sutherland, Rick Morgan-Selectmen's Rep., and Ellen White, Town Administrator.

Absent: Kathleen Maloney

Meeting Minutes: the Meeting Minutes from 10/04/2017 were reviewed.

A **Motion** by L. Parker to approve the minutes of 10/04/2017 Budget Committee meeting as presented. D. Gridley seconded. No further discussion. M McConarty abstained. All others voted in favor.

Members: J. Goss introduced and the Committee welcomed new member Louise Sutherland from the West Ossipee Precinct. Kathleen Maloney's absenteeism was addressed.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, October 30, 2017 - Public Information Night – Town Beach on Ossipee Lake - 6:00pm at Town Hall
- Wednesday, November 1, 2017 - Budget Committee Meeting - 6:30pm at the Freight House for 2018 Budget Review Schedule
- Thursday, November 2, 2017 - Public Hearing Notice on Proposed Issuance of Bonds Town of Ossipee - 5:30pm at Town Hall
- Thursday, November 2, 2017 - Public Hearing - Budget Committee on Town Beach - 6:30pm at Town Hall
- Thursday, November 9, 2017 - Budget Committee Meeting - 6:30pm at the Freight House for 2018 Budget Review Schedule.
- Wednesday, November 15, 2017 - Budget Committee Meeting - 6:30pm at the Freight House for 2018 Budget Review Schedule.
- Thursday, November 16, 2017 - Budget Committee Meeting - 6:30pm at the Freight House for 2018 Budget Review Schedule.
- Tuesday, November 28, 2017 – Town Hall Meeting on Town Beach – 6:30pm – 7:30pm at the Town Hall.
- Wednesday, November 29, 2017 - Budget Committee Meeting - 6:30pm at the Freight House for 2018 Budget Review Schedule.

- **New Business:**

Board of Selectmen, Chair Rick Morgan spoke on behalf of the Town Beach project. The Board of Selectmen are hosting a public information night. White Mountain Survey & Engineering will have conceptual design plans present for viewing. Morgan noted interest is building significantly but acknowledged there is organized opposition as evident of the signs. The Selectmen have voted to eliminate the campground and all docks will be removed for the campground. Through the Purchase & Sales Agreement, there will be a transition period. The agreement states for any campers that stay, the Town will not be able to go up on their rent for three (3) years. The remaining campers will be bond by the same rules for the beach as any other resident meaning no drinking alcohol on the beach, no pets and no one on the beach after dark. There will be a Town Beach Committee. The Board of Selectmen suggest a member of the Budget Committee should be on the Beach Committee to monitor the budget, look over the property and come back with plans to best utilize the property. Discussion ensued.

Morgan conveyed the Board of Selectmen's opinion of noting the biggest advantage to eliminating the campground is it allows the parking to be kept on the non-water side of Hodsdon Shore Road. Thus, continuing to gate the end of the road and keeping traffic low on Hodsdon Shore Rd. Residents would go down Gretchen Road to parking area and walk across the street to the beach. Thus leaving a lot of space for potentially a picnic area, a playground, etc...

Morgan stated the Board of Selectmen have discussed the maintenance with the Public Works Director and there is already a full time employee whose duties will include daily maintenance of the beach area.

Morgan stated the Board of Selectmen have discussed the having a Life Guard on duty. Finding one is inherently hard. But Morgan also noted the liability of the Town insurance is actually higher with a life guard on duty than without one. Ellen White has spoken with the insurance company and an increase should be minimal if any increase at all.

Morgan addressed complaints about Gretchen Road. Stating the Board of Selectmen have discussed with the Public Works Director and Highway Supervisor the condition of Gretchen Road. Both state no work needs to be done. They state it will pass two cars and with the Town's current equipment to grade and gravel. The maintenance stays within the current operating budget.

2018 Proposed Budget Reviews:

Conservation Agent: The 2018 proposed budget is \$4,306.00

Morgan noted its level funded from last year. The agent reviews primarily the intent to cut timbers and makes sure the reporting is accurate. Morgan noted the gentlemen is very knowledgeable and it's been a worthwhile program.

Discussion: J. Smith inquired of how many, if any, fraud reporting has been detected and is this amount justifiable with the reporting of fraud. Morgan noted there have been several under reporting's as well as crossing over boundary lines. The agent will report the findings to the State Forest Ranger, who in turn will pursue and possibly prosecute. The agent keeps a log in the Selectmen's office for public information.

A Motion by D. Gridley to approve the 2018 proposed budget of \$4,306.00. M. McConarty seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Board of Selectmen: The 2018 proposed budget is \$16,364.00

Morgan noted its level funded, it's the salary line item for the three Selectmen and is the same for about the past 10 years.

Discussion: J. Smith inquired if their hours have ever been calculated. Morgan replied no. General discussion ensued over possibly looking at this further as a means of generating more interest of people to serve as a town official. NH Municipal Association has a wage survey that can be utilized for determining wages from other towns of similar size.

A **Motion** by L. Parker to approve the 2018 proposed budget of \$16,364.00. J. Smith seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Dam Authority: The 2018 proposed budget is \$8,126.00

Morgan noted its level funded. The Dam is shared with the Town of Freedom for the control of water on Ossipee Lake. The dam used to be owned by Central Maine Power. The Dam Authority was created and the Town of Ossipee controls the dam in conjunction with the State of NH. There are several monitoring devices at the rivers around the lake. There are 7 rivers that flow into the lake and only 1 river that flows out of the lake. Morgan commented the dam is about to be replaced by the State with no involvement from the Town of Ossipee.

A **Motion** by M. McConarty to approve the 2018 proposed budget of \$8,126.00. L. Parker seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Legal: The 2018 proposed budget is \$35,000.00

Morgan noted its level funded. Year to date the Town has spent \$22,489.32. The budget used to be \$50,000.00 and it was cut years ago and remains to be adequate.

Discussion: M. McConarty inquired if there are any cases pending and will the remaining amount be enough to cover expenses. E. White explained besides Town Attorney Sager, the Town also has DTC Lawyers handling Charter Communications, which is Time Warner Cable Franchise Agreement. The Town of Ossipee has joined forces with other Town's so the legal fees shared. A different attorney with DTC Lawyers is handling another case with Fairpoint, who has filed an assessment appeal going back to 2013 and that case is in the Supreme Courts. Committee discussion ensued.

A **Motion** by L. Parker to approve the 2018 proposed budget of \$35,000.00. S. Mosier seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Patriotic Purposes: The 2018 proposed budget is \$2,000.00

Morgan noted its level funded. The funds are for Veteran markers and flags for the 147 cemetery's within the Town of Ossipee. Roy Eldridge placed the flags and markers for years. He has since retired and Mark Washburn is the new attendant.

Discussion: L. Parker inquired if there are any Veteran markers being stolen. Morgan replied no.

A **Motion** by M. McConarty to approve the 2018 proposed budget of \$2,000.00. L. Parker seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Cemeteries: The 2018 proposed budget is \$39,310.00

Morgan noted 2017 was budgeted for \$36,810.00. Year to date they have expensed \$23,322.14. They are asking to increase the cemetery maintenance \$2,500.00 from \$7,000.00 to \$9,500.00 to have a company use ground penetrating radar to find unmarked graves in the old section of the Chickville Cemetery. Everything else is level funded. The Board of Selectmen get compliments all the time on the maintenance of the grounds. The Cemetery Trustees do an excellent job and are engaging.

Discussion: J. Smith inquired the Water line item. Morgan noted the Granite Hill Cemetery is on Town Water System and are charged a minimal base rate. J. Smith inquired the Telephone line item. It's a line item share by all Boards, Commissions and Committee's.

A **Motion** by M. McConarty to approve the 2018 proposed budget of \$39,310.00. L. Sutherland seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Treasurer: The 2018 proposed budget is \$11,030.00

Jonathan Smith presented as Deputy Treasurer, per Harry Merrow its level funded.

Discussion: Morgan noted the Selectmen have reviewed and have no questions.

A **Motion** by D. Gridley to approve the 2018 proposed budget of \$11,030.00. L. Parker seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Welfare: The 2018 proposed budget is \$55,270.00

Morgan noted its level funded. The Welfare Director is proficient in directing residents to the appropriate agencies for their needed assistance. If it's not used it's not spent.

Discussion: L. Parker commented are the residents getting help when they need it because she has an issue with the funds not being used. Morgan explained the Food Pantry issue is not a part of these funds. Morgan noted monthly reports are submitted to the Board of Selectmen. M. McConarty commented some residents are not meeting State Regulation. Morgan clarified resident's needing assistance need to meet Town Guidelines and State Regulations.

A **Motion** by L. Parker to approve the 2018 proposed budget of \$55,270.00. L. Sutherland seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Any Other Business Which May Come Before This Meeting

J. Goss noted the Budget Committee will review the Town Clerk / Tax Collector, Election, Registration, Recreation Department, Economic Development, Government Buildings, Highway Department, and Transfer Station on Wednesday, November 1, 2017.

J. Goss restated Thursday, November 2, 2017 - Public Hearing - Budget Committee on Town Beach - 6:30pm at Town Hall.

J. Goss asked if an official letter could be written to Kathleen Maloney and he will sign it.

Adjournment:

A **Motion** by D. Gridley to adjourn the meeting. M. McConarty seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Next Meeting: **November 1, 2017 @ 6:30 pm**

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Board on – _____

Date

Joe Goss, Chairman
Budget Committee