

**OSSIPEE BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2018**

Minutes recorded by and transcribed 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 6:36 PM.

Attendance by Roll Call: – Joe Goss-Chairman, Jonathan Smith, Donna Gridley, Lynn Parker, Louise Sutherland, Sandra “Sam” Martin, BOS Rep. (in absence of Rick Morgan) and Ellen White, Town Administrator. Late Arrival: Marie McConarty

Absent: -Steve Mosier, Kathleen Maloney, Rick Morgan, BOS Rep.

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of January 31, 2018, Budget Committee meeting were reviewed.

A **Motion** by J. Smith to approve the minutes of 01/31/2018 Budget Committee meeting as Written. L. Sutherland seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

New Business:

2018 Proposed Budget Reviews:

Revenue Reports: The committee reviewed the submitted revenues for 2018. Ellen White explained there are not many changes year to year most of it is estimated. She increased the Building permit revenue because it has been increasing from \$12,000.00 to \$15,000.00. In 2017, it was estimated for \$25,000.00 and in September, it was already at \$27,000.00. In 2018, it has been increased to \$30,000.00. The Room & Meal Tax and Highway Block Grant are estimates based on the first two allocation submitted.

Goss questioned the Sale of Municipal Properties of surplus vehicles and tax deeded properties. E. White explained if Town meeting approves the purchase of two new cruisers. They have (2) to get rid of and (2) from (2) years ago that were not auctioned off because (1) has a blown engine. The auction this summer will have the (4) vehicles and tax deeded properties in a property tax auction. In 2017, it was estimated at \$200,000.00 and the Town netted \$173,000.00. In 2018, is estimated for \$150,000.00.

Goss noted the estimated revenue without the Town Beach is \$2,596,195.00. E. White noted the warrant articles for the Town Beach are staying on the warrants until she is told otherwise. Because even though the injunction was denied, there is still an appeal period and Attorney Sager is reviewing options.

No further questions or concerns were address. The Budget Committee opted to wait until after next week’s meeting before deciding on any recommendations.

Marie McConarty arrived at 6:42 pm.

Warrant Articles: Discussion ensued by the Budget Committee:

2018 Proposed Warrant Articles

Ossipee Corner Light & Power Precinct

- Article 10: Fire Apparatus Fund

To see if the Precinct will vote to appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) to be added to the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established, with said funds to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. Recommended by the Commissioners and the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required)

L. Parker explained funds have been added to the Capital Reserve Fund each year towards the purchase of apparatus. The precinct wants to pay cash for any purchases and currently there is approximately \$90,000.00.

A **Motion** by J. Smith to pass Article 10: Fire Apparatus Fund as written. L. Sutherland seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous was taken. L. Parker abstained.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) for the purpose of repair and improvements of Town roads. Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (**Recommended**/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

Passed at 01/31/2018 Budget Committee meeting; Gridley requested to revisit this article for discussion. Gridley questioned why this was an increase from prior year and for what projects. E. White explained it's always been \$350,000.00 but the Selectmen cut it last year. White explained other projects that were cut last year are being requested to complete this year. Gridley asked what projects. White noted finishing Chickville Rd., an overlay on Dorrs St., project on Granit Rd., Circuit Rd., fix two roads that only got a base on this year. J. Smith noted any remaining funds are rolled over to the general fund and cannot be used on anything else. White agreed.

A **Motion** by McConarty to pass the warrant article in the amount of \$350,000.00 for road repairs. Smith seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (**Recommended**/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

McConarty inquire as to how much is in the account. White stated roughly \$101,000.00 and in speaking with the Highway Director, he is looking at replacing truck #6 in 2019 and in 2-3 years, the Loader will need to be replaced.

A **Motion** by McConarty to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Gridley seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the purpose of Town building improvements (Town Hall, Freight House, Highway Garage, Library, Police Station). Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (**Recommended**/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

A **Motion** by Gridley to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the purpose of Town building improvements. Parker seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Bridge Repair and/or Replacement Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Majority

vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (**Recommended**/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

A **Motion** by J. Smith to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Bridge Repair and/or Replacement Expendable Trust Fund previously established. D. Gridley seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Ossipee Sidewalk Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (**Recommended**/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

A **Motion** by M. McConarty to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Ossipee Sidewalk Expendable Trust Fund previously established. L. Sutherland seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Gridley question how much is in the sidewalk fund. White explained there is \$59,821.62 in the fund and the sidewalk proposed is approximately \$80,000.00 and will go from the Town Hall to Huckins Street only on one side of the street.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Solid Waste Improvements Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (**Recommended**/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

A **Motion** by M. McConarty to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Solid Waste Improvements Expendable Trust Fund. Sutherland seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-eight thousand five hundred eighty dollars (\$58,580) for the purpose of paying the Ossipee Water System's bond payment for one (1) year. Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (**Recommended**/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

A **Motion** by J. Smith to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-eight thousand five hundred eighty dollars (\$58,580) for the purpose of paying the Ossipee Water System's bond payment for one (1) year. M. McConarty seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-seven thousand eight hundred sixty-two dollars (\$87,862) for the purpose of purchasing two new police cruisers and equipment. The sum to come from the Town's unreserved fund balance (surplus) no amount of such \$87,862 to be raised from taxation. Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended/**Not Recommended** by Budget Committee)

Discussion ensued over not being informed by the Police Chief of wanting to buy two new cruisers. Goss recommended reducing the amount by half for the purchase of one cruiser and equipment until the police chief comes before the committee to explain why this article was not discussed in earlier meetings.

A **Motion** by Goss to amend the warrant article to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-three thousand nine hundred thirty-one dollars (\$43,931) for the purpose of purchasing one (1) new police cruiser and equipment. Smith seconded. No further discussion. McConarty voted in opposition. All others vote in favor. **Motion passed 5 – 1.**

- A **Motion** by Gridley to approve to see if the Town will to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-three thousand nine hundred thirty-one dollars (\$43,931) for the purpose of purchasing one (1) new police cruiser and equipment, as amended. Smith seconded. No further discussion. McConarty voted in

opposition. All others vote in favor. **Motion passed 5 – 1.** (Recommended/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the purpose of purchasing a Vault Shelving System with Carriages and Tracks for improvements to the Town Clerk's current vault. Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

White explained this will allow the tax collector's office to expand the file room without expanded the vault.

A **Motion** by Gridley to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the purpose of purchasing a Vault Shelving System with Carriages and Tracks for improvements to the Town Clerk's current vault. McConarty seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine thousand nine hundred ninety-five dollars (\$9,995) for the purpose of restoring three (3) books entitled "Ossipee 1887-1929 Town Minutes". The sum is to be paid for by a grant from the Conservation License Plate Grant Program and no amount is to be raised by taxation. Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

A **Motion** by L. Sutherland to raise and appropriate the sum of nine thousand nine hundred ninety-five dollars (\$9,995) for the purpose of restoring three (3) books entitled "Ossipee 1887-1929 Town Minutes". The sum is to be paid for by a grant from the Conservation License Plate Grant Program and no amount is to be raised by taxation. D. Gridley seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Account previously established for the purpose of a complete revaluation of the Town in the year 2020. Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

A **Motion** by M. McConarty to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Account previously established for the purpose of a complete revaluation of the Town in the year 2020. D. Gridley seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

A **Motion** by J. Smith to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund previously established. L. Sutherland seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Invasive Species Control Fund previously established for the purpose of preventing and treating milfoil in Ossipee Lake. Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

A **Motion** by M. McConarty to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Invasive Species Control Fund previously established for the purpose of preventing and treating milfoil in Ossipee Lake. D. Gridley seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

D. Gridley had a question of why the request for funds has decreased from last year. E. White explained whatever is not expensed is carried over to the next year and currently there is approximately \$13,000.00 in the fund to go towards this year.

L. Parker brought attention to the committee that there was a discussion over the two cruisers at the January 31st meeting. Goss and Smith acknowledged but no decisions were made.

- To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town and AFSCME Local #534 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2018	\$40,502.00 (53 pay periods)
2019	\$ 2,458.00 (52 pay periods)
2020	\$21,996.00 (52 pay periods)

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand five hundred two dollars (\$40,502) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (**Recommended**/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

The committee raised several questions for clarification of what these figures actually represent or is this an increase in addition to the \$40,502.00 per year. E. White clarified the increase is just the wages & benefits at an increase of 2% and 2018 having 53 pay weeks. These figure only reflect the 2% difference per year.

- Shall the Town, if article is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article cost items only? Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

A **Motion** by D. Gridley to approve the warrant article as written. McConarty seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- To see if the Town will vote to establish a Water Department Major Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 and to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in this fund and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend. Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended/**Not Recommended** by Budget Committee)

E. White explained this is for major repairs that will be made to the Water and/or Sewer system in the event something catastrophic happens. The money will be raised through taxation and is not off-set by user fees. The money currently in the account is used for day to day system repairs and purchase of the new water meters.

J. Smith spoke in opposition stating the roughly 351 customers should be the only resident's paying towards this fund. It's not fair to be charging residence, who have their own wells and are not on Town water or sewer. The Water Department should establish their own surplus fund by applying surcharges for the users to pay.

Martin noted this is part of the Town's infrastructure. The users pay for their water and meters but the system is Town owned, as part of the infrastructure the Town is responsible for major repairs.

Discussion continued about The Water & Sewer Department having a plan going forward to self-sustain itself.

Chairman Goss stated a vote Yes, if you want the Town to establish the Capital Reserve Fund or vote No, if you think the User Group should establish the Capital Reserve Fund.

A **Motion** by D. Gridley to approve the warrant article as written. McConarty seconded. No further discussion. L. Parker and M. McConarty voted to approve. J. Smith, J. Goss, L. Sutherland, and D. Gridley voted in opposition. **Motion failed 4-2.**

- To see if the Town will vote to establish a Sewer Department Major Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 and to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be

placed in this fund and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend. Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (Recommended/**Not Recommended** by Budget Committee)

A **Motion** by M. McConarty to approve the warrant article as written. Sutherland seconded. No further discussion. L. Parker and M. McConarty voted to approve. J. Smith, J. Goss, L. Sutherland, and D. Gridley voted in opposition. **Motion failed 4-2.**

D. Gridley stated next year the department better come forward with a plan in writing if they want another \$15,000.00.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) for the purpose of acquiring the land and buildings at 130 Gretchen Road located on Ossipee Lake for use as a town beach and recreation area; seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) of such sum to come from the Town's unreserved fund balance (surplus) and the balance of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to be raised from taxation. Majority vote required. (Recommended by Selectmen) (**Recommended**/Not Recommended by Budget Committee)

A **Motion** by J. Smith to approve the warrant article as written. L. Parker seconded. No further discussion. J. Smith, L. Sutherland, M. McConarty, D. Gridley, and L. Parker voted to approve. J. Goss, voted in opposition. **Motion passed 5-1.**

- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,200,000 for the purpose of acquiring the land and buildings at 130 Gretchen Road located on Ossipee Lake for use as a Town beach and recreation area; \$800,000 of such sum to be raised by the issuance of serial bonds or notes not to exceed \$800,000 under and in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NHRSA 33:1 et seq., as amended) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and to take such other actions as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interests of the Town of Ossipee. The remaining \$400,000 to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount of such \$400,000 to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by Selectmen) (**Recommended**/Not Recommended by Budget Committee) A two-thirds (2/3) ballot vote is required.

A **Motion** by M. McConarty to approve the warrant article as written. D. Gridley seconded. No further discussion. J. Smith, J. Goss, L. Sutherland, M. McConarty, and D. Gridley voted to approve. L. Parker, voted in opposition. **Motion passed 5-1.**

- To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:81 Commercial and Industrial Construction Exemption to allow anew construction property tax exemption for commercial and industrial uses. The exemption shall apply only to municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the municipality and shall exclude state education property taxes and county taxes. The exemption shall be as follows: 50% of the increase in assessed value attributable to construction of new structures, and additions, renovations, or improvements to existing structures for five years. This exemption will be applied to all projects submitting a proper application each year during the exemption period, which will remain in effect for a period of five years from adoption. (Recommended by Selectmen) (**Recommended**/Not Recommended by Budget Committee) Majority vote required.

E. White explained the Selectmen are proposing to offer if the HB 316 passes, is 50% exemption of the assessed value of a new industrial/commercial building coming into the town and would also apply to construction of new structures, additions, renovations, or improvements to existing structures for five years and will need to apply for the exemption each year for five years.

A **Motion** by J. Smith to approve the warrant article as written. D. Gridley seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

PETITION WARRANT ARTICLES

- (Submitted by Petition) To see if the Town of Ossipee will vote raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 for the Family Resource Center at Children Unlimited, Inc. Majority vote required.

Discussion about the services they provide, number of Ossipee families involved, revenue, expenses, no data or statics submitted to adequately evaluate for consideration. Martin noted the Board of Selectman took no position until someone comes and presents the information to the Board.

A **Motion** by M. McConarty to not recommend this warrant article until someone from the organization come before the Budget Committee to present the need from Ossipee taxpayer's. L. Sutherland seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. (Recommended/**Not Recommended** by Budget Committee)

- (Submitted by Petition) By petition of 25 or more registered voters of this Town, to see if the Town would approve the following petitioned warrant article at the 2018 Town Meeting Ballot Vote. Petitioned Warrant Language, per Senate Bill 191 from the 2017 State of New Hampshire Legislative Session; "Shall we allow the operation of Keno games within the Town?" Majority vote required.

Martin noted the Board of Selectman took no position on this warrant article.

Discussion about the percentage made to the schools, the business, and the financial burden to be put on the Town. Martin commented in her welfare position, she sees a lot of families that cannot afford what they have now. But her personal opinion should have no effect, it's up to the Town's people to vote if they want it. J. Smith inquired to the incentive to the business for having Keno. Consensus was to draw in more business.

A **Motion** by D. Gridley stating the Budget Committee voices No Opinion. McConarty seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

- (Submitted by Petition) By petition of Ossipee Voters. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 in support of White Horse Addiction Center in the fight against the opioid crisis/substance misuse in our area. Majority vote required.

Martin noted the Board of Selectman took no position on this warrant article because they have not been presented with any information to adequately evaluate an opinion.

E. White noted she has a cover letter itemizing what their looking to fund including educational and transitional programs for people in this area. There are a lot of statics to support what they have done over the past year. Part of the issue was staffing but now they actually have the data to back up their programs. They will also be at the public hearing next week.

Discussion was focused around actually seeing the statics, data, revenues, and expenses before rendering a decision. Suggestions were made to table discussion until they get the facts.

A **Motion** by D. Gridley to table the White Horse Addiction Center funding request until the public hearing next week. L. Parker seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Chairman Goss inquired if there's a bottom line figure. E. White noted not yet because the warrant articles and petitions just came in but she will have one ready for Wednesday at the public hearing.

Any Other Business that May Come Before the Committee:

Wed., 02/14/2018 – Budget Committee to next meeting prior to public hearing at 6:00 pm

Wed., 02/14/2018 – Budget Committee to hold Public Hearing on proposed budget and warrant articles at 6:30 pm.

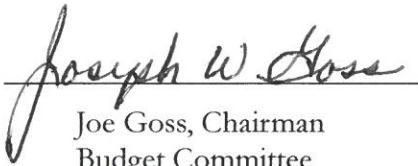
Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 14, 2018 @ 6:00 pm – Public Hearing @ 6:30 pm. at the Town Hall.

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Board on – 5/2/18
Date


Joe Goss, Chairman
Budget Committee