

**OSSIPEE BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 2018**

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 6:30 PM.

Attendance by Roll Call: – Joe Goss-Chairman, Jonathan Smith, Donna Gridley, Lynne Parker, Marie McConarty, Louise Sutherland, Roland Millette, and Rick Morgan-Selectmen's Rep.

Absent: Ellen White, Town Administrator

Meeting Minutes: The Meeting Minutes from 11/07/2018 were reviewed. Sutherland noted corrections on page 3: "Due in part to one final payment of \$23,000.00 to pay off the ***Jewel Hill*** building." Parker noted correction on page 3: "Chief Adam Riley was changed to ***Commissioner Spencer***."

A **Motion** by Parker to approve the minutes of 11/07/2018 Budget Committee meeting as amended. Smith seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed**

New Business:

2019 Proposed Budget Reviews:

Outside Agencies:

AGAPE Ministries Servants, Inc.: Morgan informed the committee that this application delivered to the after the deadline and the Selectmen have not reviewed it.

Kevin Straughan presented their request for \$10,000.00 to help with overhead expenses for food, heat, electric, etc... Kevin first apologized for being behind with the tax reports to show income and expenses. He explained, they operate the food pantry, thrift's store and church across from the Pizza Barn.

Discussion: Kevin Straughan reported 50% of the people they serve are Ossipee residents. They receive no other funding from other towns. He and his wife both work for AGAPE but he is the only one who is 1099 taxed for \$35,000.00 per year as the Executive Director. Families and individuals are counted by each time they come in and other services are offered to them. They are not seeking funding from other towns they service this year because they fund raise through the Thrift store. Tamworth and Effingham are two other towns they service. Most income is from the Thrift Store and they monitor the families they serve to ensure they are what he called "double dipping" with other food pantries.

A **Motion** by Parker to table the discussion until the next Budget Committee meeting on November 28th and until receipt of the 2017 and current tax reports are reviewed by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on Monday, November 19th. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed**

Schools Out! Program: The 2019 proposed budget is \$45,000.00

Jen Berkowitz presented the proposed budget of \$45,000.00 which is an increase of \$20,000.00 from last year. The School's Out Program at Ossipee Central School offers daily afterschool activities for Ossipee students since 2003. The afterschool program includes a daily snack, homework clubs, a wide variety of enrichment clubs and daily late bus transportation to local "drop-offs sites" throughout Ossipee. (Board of Selectmen recommended).

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation changed their guidelines thus resulting in not being eligible for the \$20,000.00 grant. They need to raise \$60,000.00 to meet this year's budget plus the \$20,000.00 being requested. They do receive support from local businesses and support groups but Jen showed a stack of grant

applications she needs to complete. Jen reported for the first time in 15 years, family fees will increase to \$7.00 per day and staff stipend rates are being increased in order to keep experienced staff. She found other towns are charging up to \$16.00 per day.

Discussion: Morgan spoke highly of the program and ideas to keep funding the program. Several members spoke highly of the program and volunteers. Several options were discussed on how to potentially offset this increase from the upcoming budget. Goss commented the planning was bad timing for increasing the staff stipends and suggested finding other options of funding like possibly setting up a Go-Fund Me account. Jen reported that was discussed but the Board did not support this idea and proceeded to explain the billing process. Goss asked Mark McConkey if he could check at the State level if there's any funding that could help the Schools Out program.

Goss suggested tabling the discussion until Mark McConkey is able to get to Jen. Morgan and several Committee member were not in favor of tabling the discussion or setting up a Go-Fund Me account.

A **Motion** by McConarty to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$45,000.00 for Schools Out! Morgan seconded. No further discussion. All others voted in favor. Goss opposed. **Motion passed 7-1.**

Starting Point: The 2019 proposed budget is \$5,679.00

Raetha Stoddard presented the proposed budget of \$5,679.00 which is increase \$1,973.00 from last year. Starting Point is a non-profit agency that provides services for victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence and Stalking in Carroll County. The organization provides crisis services within the community and works closely within the criminal justice system to ensure that the victim's rights are observed. (Board of Selectmen strongly recommend).

A brief discussion took place on how Ossipee is second to Conway for domestic violence cases. How they directly work with the police on these calls. Most members spoke in favor, but Smith was skeptical at first, until listening to Ms. Stoddard's presentation. Goss called for a motion.

A **Motion** by J. Smith to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$5,679.00 for Starting Point. Morgan seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Tax Rate – 2019:

Smith addressed his calculations of a **\$355,000.00** short fall with Morgan. Morgan was surprised by the \$176,000.00 amount in Veteran's credit for 352 veterans' in Ossipee. This is calculated by the amount of taxes generated from revenue and add back in the elderly and veteran's exemptions, which is less taxable income. Morgan noted the surprise was not being aware of the veteran's credit but the amount it increased by this year.

Morgan noted the other increase was the school tax rate. The projected increase was \$1.33 per thousand and when the final numbers came in it was \$1.59 per thousand. This increase is based on the Town's evaluations, which increased **to** \$652 million. The increase of \$0.26 per thousand is not understood but is being questioned reviewed further.

Discussion as to whether the tax credits and abatements contributed to the increase. Morgan assured the committee, it did not. Discussion ensued over options to offset the increase. Morgan reported no surplus was used last year. This year with an increase of actually \$0.54 per thousand, the Board of Selectmen voted to withdraw \$250,000.00 from the surplus, thus decreasing the tax rate increase to \$0.16 per thousand versus \$0.54 per thousand.

Highway Department: (Revisited) Brad Harriman was present for discussion.

Discussion ensued over personnel who may retire and/or transfer to the Transfer Station. Harriman noted if this employee transfers over, that position would need to be replaced because that position is also a truck driver. Morgan noted there has been some discussion about adding another truck driver in addition to the vacant position without adding wider areas of coverage to each existing driver. Harriman explained the length

of time and areas of coverage the 8 driver's process. By lessening the staff, the level of service the residents have become a custom too, will not be able to be provided. Harriman noted he has had Harriman noted he has had **9 employees plus himself for the past 10 years** and they provide more services to the Town than just road work.

Discussion turned to the PT Wages, line item for \$10,000.00 and whether it is actually needed. Harriman noted this is utilized for Flagger's when working on busy roads thus freeing up the police to work on their cases. Harriman noted there is 19.16% of the budget left for this year, due to a previous hard winter last year and now with this year's early snow falls it's adding up.

Government Buildings: (Revisited)

Gas & Diesel: line item – Smith was trying to understand the \$24,000.00, when previous years were well below this amount. Harriman explained the expenses going out on a quarterly basis verses the incoming income on a quarterly basis, this amount is needed to help offset the difference. Morgan noted this account was set up to help offset expenses each quarter until the income comes in to replenish.

Highway Incinerator/Transfer Station: (Revisited)

Gridley questioned the revenue associated with the Transfer Station stickers. Harriman reported the Town has sold 4,149 facility stickers to date. Each facility sticker is \$10.00 and valid for 2 years, thus generating approximately \$41,490.00 in revenue. Gridley questioned if the Town is charging enough for the facility stickers to offset the cost of hauling & dumping fees. Discussion ensued over the possibility of increasing the facility sticker rate to maintain the Transfer Station services provided by the Town.

Smith inquired of the going rates for recycling since China is no longer accepting recyclables. Harriman noted cardboard equvalates to approximately \$80.00 per ton. But it costs \$100.00 per ton to haul it away to the recycling center. Harriman estimates approximately \$103,000.00 has been brought back to the Town for recycling of cardboard, aluminum cans, glass, and plastics.

McConarty questioned the manpower needed for the Transfer Station and the monitoring shack. Morgan addressed the earn-time and sick-time abuse currently taking place within the confines of the union contract and how this will be remedied. Morgan explained how there used to be 4-fulltime employees, until one retired. That position was never filled, which left 3-fulltime employees, until a 1-fulltime floater position was hired. Discussion ensued over providing enough personnel coverage, especially on the weekends, at the Transfer Station and being able to monitor the scales for contractors and others coming in to weigh debris. The floater person is currently at the Transfer Station when staffing is shorthanded. Once the staffing issue is remedied, he will be utilized elsewhere. As for reducing the floaters overtime hours at the Transfer Station, it seems to be a management scheduling situation of providing more coverage on the busy days and float the position during the week.

Goss addressed the increase for the hauling & dumping fees. Harriman explained the increase is per a new 3-year contract agreement at a new rate with North Conway Incinerator based on volume. Hauling increased to \$10.00 per haul for a container. Dumping fee per ton tipping fee increased by \$2.00 from \$52.00 to \$54.00 per ton.

Smith found it difficult to accept a 12% budget increase for the Transfer Station and still offer 2-free Hazardous Waste Disposal Days. ***Morgan commented trying to reduce municipal rates to offset the increased school rate to reduce \$30,000.00 from the budget, is not the case.*** Discussion ensued over possibly reducing free dump day to one day as a possible means of reducing the increased tax rate going forward. Several suggestions were discussed.

Morgan felt the Budget Committee could offer more as an advisory Board to the Board of Selectmen. Some figures are budgetary while others are policy. Rules are being changed and if solely up to him he would change some of the fees being applied for certain permits.

Gridley raised concerns pertaining to AGAPE Ministries Servants, Inc.: Morgan informed the committee that this application was delivered after the deadline and the Selectmen have not reviewed it. Several concerns were raised and will be discussed at the next meeting pending receipt of the financial reports. Morgan noted they are a food pantry and the Town does support other food pantries. Once the Thrift Store opened, they stopped asking for funds. There has been a dispute over property taxes, which has been somewhat resolved. The Board of Selectmen chose to exempt the portion of the building that is a chapel. The Board of Selectmen chose to administratively abate the portion of the building used for the food pantry because it serves a public good. The portion of the building that is a Thrift Store, it is a business and is no different than any other second-hand store within Ossipee.

Ossipee Police Department: The 2019 proposed budget is \$1,240,278.00

Discussion is tabled and approval of the proposed budget of \$1,240,278.00 is continued until the next Budget Committee meeting on 11/28/2018.

Any Other Business Which May Come Before This Meeting

The remaining Outside Agencies will be discussed and voted on at the next Budget Committee meeting to be held on November 28th at 6:30 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Wednesday, **November 28, 2017** - Budget Committee Meeting - 6:30pm - 7:30pm at Freight House for 2018 Budget Review Schedule.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Next Meeting: **November 28, 2018 @ 6:30 pm**

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Board on –

Date

Joe Goss, Chairman
Budget Committee