

**OSSIPEE BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 24, 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 6:32 PM.

Attendance by Roll Call: – Joe Goss, Jonathan Smith, Lynn Parker, Louise Sutherland, Roland Millette, Rick Morgan, BOS Rep. and Marie McConarty.

Absent Members: Donna Gridley and Ellen White, Town Administrator.

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of September 5, 2018 Budget Committee meeting were reviewed.

R. Millette noted a correction on page 1 under Water & Sewer that should read, “Millette commented they have ***a monitoring device that monitors the system itself on how much usage we have*** at the Bluff’s and willing to show Town Officials if their interested.

R. Morgan also noted a correction on page 1 under Water & Sewer that should read, “***The new*** technology is ***to monitor the system so the Town does not have to have an employee working on the weekends*** to do meter readings.”

A **Motion** by L. Parker to approve the minutes of 09/05/2018 Budget Committee meeting as Written. M. McConarty seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Budget Report by Board of Selectmen:

Rick Morgan reported the current budget is where it should be for this time of year. Tax rate has not been set pending the DRA. The Town has borrowed against the TAN note, which is consistent with the past three years. The note will be reimbursed once the new tax rate is set and the tax bills are distributed.

New Business:

2019 Proposed Budget Reviews:

Conservation Agent: (Timber Monitor) The 2019 proposed budget is \$4,306.00

Morgan noted its level funded from last year. **Discussion:** Morgan noted there was a re-evaluation last fall because he was not convinced it was doing everything they hoped it would do. There has been a definite increase in the amount of timber cuts reported by the agent, who is retired Forest Ranger. Morgan commented he cannot justify increasing the inspection hours at this time to accomplish what needs to see done.

A **Motion** by Morgan to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$4,306.00. McConarty seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Board of Selectmen: The 2019 proposed budget is \$19,920.00

Morgan reported the budget is level funded. Morgan noted since he is not running next year, he recommended increasing the selectmen’s stipend pay to \$6,000.00 for each member and \$6,500.00 for the chairman. This would bring the salaries more in line with other towns.

Discussion: Millette inquired on the number hours. Morgan explained the various hours, number of meetings and other circumstances where he would be contacted. McConarty said this would hopefully entice others to come and serve the town. Smith suggested increasing the pay to \$7,500.00. Discussion ensued but the committee decided to do increases in increments over the next few years.

A **Motion** by L. Parker to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$19,920.00. J. Smith seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Recreation Department: The 2019 proposed budget is \$165,250.00

Craig Brady, Recreation Director presented the budget. Salary and Wages is increased per the annual 2% wage increase is part of the union ratification. Lifeguard line item is justifiable and needed for Duncan Lake but only part-time for a swim instructor and lifeguard on Saturday's. Activities line item is increased by \$2,000.00 is due to participation increase in the summer camp program this year. All other line items are level funded.

Discussion: Morgan reported the Board of Selectmen have no issue with the proposed budget. Morgan agrees with the need for a swim instructor. There will be a warrant article coming for a water system to be done at Constitution Park before anything can be done with the fields. Discussion ensued over cost and location of the well. Discussion turned to fee collection and the revenue coming in.

A **Motion** by McConarty to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$165,250.00. Parker seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Dam Authority: The 2019 proposed budget is \$8,126.00

Morgan noted its level funded because the Town has not received their budget request. Parker recommends the discussion be table until they receive the figures.

A **Motion** by Parker recommends the discussion be table until they receive the figures. McConarty seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Legal: The 2019 proposed budget is \$35,000.00.

Morgan reported its level funded. Discussion ensued over pending legal actions either issued by or against the Town of Ossipee. The Town has DTC Lawyers handling Charter Communications for Cable Franchise Agreement to extend cable and internet communication to more areas within Ossipee. Committee discussion ensued.

A **Motion** by Millette to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$35,000.00. Sutherland seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Patriotic Purposes: The 2019 proposed budget is \$2,000.00

Morgan noted its level funded. The funds are for Veteran makers and flags for the 147 cemetery's within the Town of Ossipee.

A **Motion** by M. McConarty to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$2,000.00. L. Parker seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Cemeteries: The 2019 proposed budget is \$39,310.00

Morgan noted its level funded. They are wanting to purchase a stump grinder and a ground penetrating radar to find unmarked graves in the old section of the Chickville Cemetery. 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.

A **Motion** by Smith to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$39,310.00. Parker seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Treasurer: The 2019 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 Parker to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$11,030.00. Millette seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Welfare: The 2019 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 spent its goes back into the general fund at the end of the year.

Discussion: Morgan did inform the committee that the Econo Lodge on Route 16 and 25 that would except Town paid for welfare recipients, has been sold and the new owners want no part of helping welfare recipients. Morgan noted this may become an issue. Discussion ensued over alternative solutions and other services. Concerns were raised over legitimate cases. Morgan reported the Welfare Director screens all applicant's financials before any money is dispersed.

A **Motion** by L. Parker to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$55,270.00. Millette seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Outside Agencies:

Morgan reported the Outside Agencies are all level funded and the Board of Selectmen have decided if they have filed their application, financials, requesting the same amount, have been coming every year, the Board of Selectmen are not requiring them to come before the board. Unless, they are new, have changes or the Board has questions. Morgan suggested to the committee if they prefer to do the same.

A **Motion** by McConarty to follow the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and if the Outside Agency has the same amount, they've been coming every year, Budget Committee are not requiring them to come before the committee. Smith seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Any Other Business Which May Come Before This Meeting

Morgan reported the funds in the Conservation Commission's budget for Green Mountain Conservation Group to do water testing and monitoring is being removed. The Green Mountain Conservation Group will be required to apply through the Outside Agencies. A notification letter will be sent to them this coming week.

General Discussion - ensued over the accuracy of the Estimate Tax Impact – RSA.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, October 30, 2018 @ 6:30 pm**

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Board on –

_____ Date

Joe Goss, Chairman
Budget Committee