

**OSSIPEE BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 5, 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, Donna Gridley, Lynn Parker, Louise Sutherland, Roland Millette, Rick Morgan, BOS Rep. and Marie McConarty.

Absent Members: Ellen White, Town Administrator.

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of May 2, 2018 Budget Committee meeting were reviewed.

A **Motion** by L. Parker to approve the minutes of 05/02/2018 Budget Committee meeting as Written. M. McConarty seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

New Business:

Budget:

Selectman Morgan reported the budget is right on track and looks good with 32% of the current budget remaining. Morgan noted per standard procedure; all department heads have been issued discretionary spending for the remaining year. The audit is complete and has gone back for final print, and the surplus is just under 1.4 million, with approximately 280,000 added to it last year. All documents are in the kiosk for setting the tax rate. Current Fire Precinct budgets are in and Morgan thanked all the precincts for their submissions. Revenues are where they need to be at this time of year. Once the revenues are entered into the kiosk, the tax rates will be set. If there is a need to offset the tax rate, money can be allotted from surplus. Last year's tax rate went down \$0.27 per thousand without a need to withdraw from the surplus. Anticipation is the tax rate will go down again this year.

Water & Sewer:

Morgan reported all new water meters have been installed, two major leaks detected last year have been repaired, and accurate readings are pending before any rate changes can occur. ***“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.”*** “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.

Morgan discussed wanting to establish a Water & Sewer Capital Reserve Fund for major repairs. Discussion ensued on how to establish the fund, acknowledging that 350 users would not be able to afford any major repairs. A suggestion was made about privatizing the Water & Sewer System and having Lakes Region Water run the system.

Beach Capital Reserve Fund:

Morgan reported the fund remains in place and wants to add to it. The Board of Selectmen are looking at another property but negotiations have stalled and the Selectmen have hired Gerard Constantino of Constantino Realty to represent the Town in the negotiations.

Sumner Brooks & Fish Hatchery:

Morgan commented the Town owns the property and the fish hatchery since the 1990's. After reading through the file, it is unclear how the Town ever obtained ownership. There was a group called the Sumner Brook

Association, who negotiated with the state for ownership. Sumner Brook Association conveyed the sale to the Conservation Commission, which is in direct violation of State Law, because the Conservation Commission cannot own property. They can manage land but cannot own land. Eventually the property was conveyed to the Town. Another company managed the property and all the rent money went to the Conservation Commission.

Morgan noted it's a business, it's a for-profit business and it's turning a profit. All financials have been turned over to the Town. Morgan ultimately wants to see Justin & Jessi Cole buy the fish hatchery, since they have already spent so much on repairs over the years and many years working the hatchery. The remaining land would stay in Conservation.

Planning & Zoning Board:

Morgan reported their budgets are on track. But the Planning Board is the most dysfunctional board he's ever participated in. Discussion ensued over how they're pushing opportunities out of Ossipee, putting the Town in legal liability, an embarrassment to potential big businesses and trying to get the Planning Board to adopt pro-business zoning changes. In order to alleviate some of the tax burden it will have to come from commercial businesses. And until the boards stop giving applicants a hard time and putting up restrictions, that's not going to happen. The two tax breaks voted in this past year, giving up to 50% tax relief, puts Ossipee at a good advantage since Tamworth and Conway voting against the tax break.

Economic Revitalization Program:

Has created revitalization zones from the Technicoil building to Ossipee Corner and areas of the square. The program is where any business locates in the economic revitalization zone. They would receive a property tax break on the State side. The property is listed in a database so people looking to relocate can review the database to see which properties are available. The Town is working with Joe Kenney, who owns Whittier Mtn, to add that property into an economic revitalization zone. John Kenney now has control of the Whittier Mtn. property and is committed to a major development of the property. The economic revitalization zone is looking at other areas to kick start as well.

Highway:

Discussion over the white lines are being painted this week. The stone wall that was built at the Town Hall north parking area, there's one on the corner of Dore's Street, and guard rails are being replaced. Morgan reported the coming budget year, he's not sure if a highway truck will need replacing.

Police Department:

Morgan noted he believes two cruisers will be requested. Gridley and McConarty thought the cycle was two then one. Meaning since two cruisers were approved last year, the only one is requested this year. Morgan agreed but at this time, no big ticket items have been requested yet this year.

Dam:

Morgan noted he believes it's still on schedule to be replaced this year, based on what he has read. But does not believe it will impact Ossipee.

NHDOT Projects:

NHDOT keeps the Town informed on all road projects taking place in Ossipee. As part of their 10 year plan, they are required by law to hold Town meetings at the Town Hall of the town they will be working.

Projects include:

- Intersection of Rte. 28 & 171 is currently being surveyed.

- Twin bridges – final plans were received and will be going out to bid, and is to be completed in 2019. Concerns were discussed over the anticipated detours. Morgan has conveyed that Newman Drew Rd. can sustain the traffic flow, since the bridges are only supposed to be out for 24 hours while NHDOT slides the new bridges into place. Much skepticism was voiced.

- Covered Bridge: The final draft has been approved by NHDOT, bids are going out and we're looking at spring for work to begin.

Budget Report:

No new planned expenditures expected aside from the standard road improvements. Left-over surplus funds should be allocated to a Capital Reserve Fund to take care of large expenditures, so long as the tax rate stays stable.

Budget Schedule:

Dissemination of departments amongst the committee members took place and departments scheduled for November 7th and 28th will be switched.

Any Other Business that May Come Before the Committee:

School District budget meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2018, 7:00 pm at the Sky Light Dining at Kingswood High School. Morgan reported last year the rate for the school portion increased by \$1.33 per thousand. It took the town 4 years to reduce the tax rate by \$.68 per thousand and in one year, the school portion more than doubled what the town was able to reduce. Morgan commented, "That is not sustainable!" Last years, school budget was 1.5 million and Ossipee was responsible for \$900,000. Discussion ensued and Morgan and Jonathan Smith are attending to request complete transparency of the budget. Morgan is asking other resident's to attend.

Adjournment:

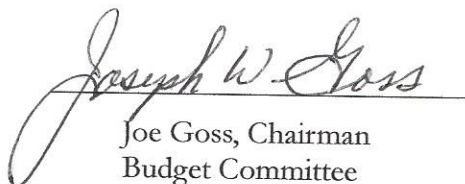
A **Motion** by D. Gridley to adjourn the meeting. M. McConarty seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, October 24, 2018 @ 6:30 pm**

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Board on –

10/24/18
Date


Joe Goss, Chairman
Budget Committee