

**OSSIPEE BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 28, 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 11/14/2018 were reviewed. Morgan noted corrections on page 2, which should read, "which increased ***to*** \$652 million." McConarty questioned on page 3, the number of employees. Harriman noted it should read, "Harriman noted he has had ***9 employees plus himself for the past 10 years***" and on page 3, "***Morgan commented you cannot reduce municipal rates to offset an increased school rate to reduce \$30,000.00 from the budget, it's just not the case.***" Smith noted on page 2, which should read, "Smith addressed his calculations of a ***\$355,000.00*** short fall..."

A **Motion** by Morgan to approve the minutes of 11/14/2018 Budget Committee meeting as amended. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 8-0.**

New Business:

2019 Proposed Budget Reviews:

Outside Agencies:

Library: The 2019 proposed budget is \$225,740.00.

Maria Moulton presented the proposed budget of \$225,740.00 which is an increase of \$6,673.00 from last year's figure. Increase is due in part to health insurance and short term disability. (Board of Selectmen recommended).

Discussion: Questions were raised concerning the Short-Term Disability (STD). Morgan explained the Health Insurance and Short-Term Disability (STD) was part of last year's union negotiations. The STD eliminated an employee's ability to build up to 90-days of sick time, and switched to an Earn-Time system. Last year that line item was about \$7,000.00 and was on the Selectmen's budget. This year the figure was disseminated to each department and subsequently removed from the Selectmen's budget. Smith inquired to the number of visitors and the number of circulations yearly. Moulton reported they see approximately 13,000 visitors and circulate about 25,000 publications yearly.

A **Motion** by McConarty to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$225,740.00 for the Library. Parker seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion Passed 8-0.**

Water & Sewer Dept.: The 2019 proposed budget is \$457,605.00

Brad Harriman presented the proposed budget of \$457,605.00 which is an increase of \$19,437.00 over last year. Noting an annual 2% increase on salary and corresponding tax and insurance adjustments. Health Insurance increase is due to 2 - FTE switching to a family plan. STD is \$160.00. Sampling testing is down \$3,500 along with Sewer: Chemicals line item is down \$750.00 and Water: Chemicals is increased by \$500.00 due to testing requirements every other year. Sewer: Maintenance/Monitoring is increased to \$800.00 because the Water & Sewer departments are installing a new wireless monitoring device which allows the on-call employee to do meter readings remotely, and will alert the employee of any trouble with the system. Infrastructure Replacement is decreased by (\$10,000.00) with no major projects planned. Water: Telephone, Computer and Electric have all increased to adjust for being over budget this year. Water:

Maintenance/Monitoring is increased to \$1,600.00 which is the annual cost to operate the new wireless monitoring system. Water: Sampling testing is increased by \$750.00 because NHDES requires managing PFOA's and the Town is taking a proactive approach by testing than NHDES is requiring. (Board of Selectmen recommend).

Discussion involved anticipating the new monitoring system will reduce the over-time, and possibly eliminating 1 FTE needed for working weekends and holidays. Adjusting the water usage rate was heavily discussed, now that the meters are all installed. But the water system is not covering its budget. The current water & sewer system is getting older, so options and the potential need of a capital reserve fund was discussed and will be revisited. Maintenance for vehicles is down \$300.00 because all vehicle are in good shape at this time. Stipend expense is for emergency on-call service. Concerns were discussed over the possibilities of tax payers having to pay a \$43,000.00 deficit. The committee was assured any remaining funds from other line items would be used to pay any shortfalls and no tax money is subsidized. After the fourth quarter ends, roughly January, the Selectmen will meet to discuss the water rate increase, once determined, a public hearing will be scheduled.

A **Motion** by Millette to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$457,605.00 for the Water & Sewer Department. L. Sutherland seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion Passed 8-0.**

Fire Warden: The 2019 proposed budget is \$21,955.00

Chief Adam Riley presented the proposed budget of \$21,955.00 which is level funded from last year. Pending Board of Selectmen approval. Morgan noted no issues.

A **Motion** by Morgan to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$21,955.00 for the Fire Warden. Gridley seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion Passed 8-0.**

Emergency Management: The 2019 proposed budget is \$6,700.00

Morgan reported the 2019 proposed budget of \$6,700.00 is level funded from last year. (Board of Selectmen recommended 3-0). No Discussion.

A **Motion** by Morgan to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$6,700.00 for Emergency Management. Gridley seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion Passed 8-0.**

Ambulance: The 2019 proposed budget is \$266,937.00

Morgan reported the proposed budget of \$266,937.00 which is an increase of \$1,309.00 from last year, is based on contract agreement which expires in 2020. (Board of Selectmen recommended).

Discussion followed concerning any issues being reported, and when would new contract negotiations begin. Morgan noted very few issues in Ossipee and the current contract has an option to renew for an additional 6-years but the Town has 3-years remaining on this contract.

A **Motion** by Smith to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$266,937.00 for the Ambulance. McConarty seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion Passed 8-0.**

Long Term Credit: The 2019 proposed budget is \$10,000.00

Morgan reported the proposed budget of \$10,000.00 which is level funded from last year. The banks now charge you even if you don't use it. The Town has authorization to borrow up to 2.5 million and the Town borrowed 1 million in October. (Board of Selectmen recommended). No Discussion.

A **Motion** by Morgan to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$10,000.00 for Long Term Credit. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion Passed 8-0.**

Insurance: The 2019 proposed budget is \$124,500.00

Morgan presented the proposed budget of \$124,500.00 which is level funded from last year. General insurance went up a little this year due in part to the extra pay week last year but the insurance company had

erroneously been charging the town on a matter, which has been rectified. (Board of Selectmen recommended). No Discussion.

A **Motion** by Smith to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$124,500.00 for Insurance. Gridley seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion Passed 8-0.**

General Discussion: ensued over the shortfall of \$355,000.00 this year. Morgan reported that White has reached out to DRA to get an explanation on the difference with the Town evaluation rate. Smith has reviewed the budget and concurs there is nothing that stand out. According to the evaluation, lakeside properties is under taxed by 20%. General discussion ensued over bringing in commercial development, which would help with reducing taxes. Incoming families which increases taxes. Lack of employees and businesses closing because they can't find people wanting to work. Affordable housing to bring people into Town to work but low pay scales aiding in preventing people coming to Town to work. Discussion continued with the frustrations of potential businesses and existing resident's on presenting their plans to primarily the Planning Board and/or ZBA. Several concerns have been reported to Town Officials. Morgan acknowledged the concerns but also stated they are an independent elected board members. If people want change then, new people will need to step up and run for a position on either board.

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

Discussion was tabled from the 11/14/2018 Budget meeting, pending a decision on the proposed budget of \$1,240,278.00 for the Police Department.

A **Motion** by Sutherland to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$1,240,278.00 for the Ossipee Police Department. Millette seconded. No discussion. All others voted in favor. Goss opposed.

Motion Passed 7-1.

Ossipee Concerned Citizens, Inc. – Elderly Nutrition Program: The 2019 proposed budget is \$20,000.00.

Parker noted that the 2019 proposed budget of \$20,000.00 is level funded for Ossipee Concerned Citizens, Inc. - Elderly Nutrition Programs (Board of Selectmen recommended).

Discussion: Millette reported that he as a board member for OCC will be requesting a Warrant Article for the electrical system upgrade at the Board of Selectmen's meeting next Monday. Morgan noted after discussion with the town attorney; as long as the town people vote on the repairs to do, it's legal but the Selectmen cannot make the decision based on the lease agreement with OCC. Discussion ensued over whether to repair the building, move to new location or replace this building with a new building.

A **Motion** by Gridley to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$20,000.00 for Ossipee Concerned Citizens, Inc. — Elderly Nutrition Programs. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

Motion Passed 8-0.

Ossipee Concerned Citizens, Inc. - Day Care: The 2019 proposed budget is \$7,000.00

The 2019 proposed budget of \$7,000.00 is level funded for Ossipee Concerned Citizens, Inc. - Daycare Programs (Board of Selectmen recommended).

Discussion: several questions were raised with the figures within the application. No one present to represent the applicant.

A **Motion** by Gridley to table the discussion on the proposed budget of \$7,000.00 for Ossipee Concerned Citizens, Inc. - Day Care until the next meeting on January 16, 2019. Millette seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 8-0.**

Tri County Community Action: The 2019 proposed budget is \$12,000.00

The proposed budget of \$12,000.00 is level funded from last year. (Board of Selectmen recommended) No Discussion.

A **Motion** by L. Parker to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$12,000.00 for Tri County Community Action. Millette seconded. No further discussion. No discussion. All others voted in favor. Smith opposed. **Motion Passed 7-1.**

Caregivers of So. Carroll County: The 2019 proposed budget is \$2,500.00

The 2019 proposed budget of \$2,500.00 is level funded from last year (Board of Selectmen recommended). No discussion.

A **Motion** by Parker to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$2,500.00. Sutherland seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 8-0.**

Tri County CAP Inc. - Carroll County Transit: The 2019 proposed budget is \$3,000.00

The 2019 proposed budget of \$3,000.00 is level funded from last year (Board of Selectmen recommended).

Discussion: evolved from not seeing them in town, to change in procedure to include door to door service, to the 125 residents they serve verses the number who do not know this service is available to them. Concern was raised over the proposed operating budget nearly doubling, salary increases and an increased revenue. Discussion ensued with an increased revenue, the questioned raised was why do they need funding from the town.

A **Motion** by Morgan to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$3,000.00 for Tri County CAP Inc. - Carroll County Transit. Millette seconded. No further discussion. A Morgan, Parker and Millette voted in favor. Smith, Goss, Sutherland, Gridley and McConarty – opposed. **Motion failed 3-5.**

End 68 Hours of Hunger, Wolfeboro, Tuftonboro, & Ossipee: The 2019 proposed budget is \$5,000.00.

The 2019 proposed budget of \$3,000.00 (as noted on the application) is level funded from last year (Board of Selectmen recommended). No discussion.

A **Motion** by Gridley to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$3,000.00 for End 68 Hours of Hunger. Parker seconded. No discussion. All others voted in favor. Smith and McConarty opposed. **Motion passed 6-2.**

Freedom Food Pantry: The 2019 proposed budget is \$8,000.00

The 2019 proposed budget of \$8,000.00 is level funded from last year (Board of Selectmen recommended) No Discussion.

A **Motion** by Millette to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$8,000.00 for Freedom Food Pantry. Gridley seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 8-0.**

Kingwood Youth Center: The 2019 proposed budget is \$5,000.00

The 2019 proposed budget of \$5,000.00 is level funded from last year (Board of Selectmen recommended).

Discussion: Parker questioned the services provided to the students. McConarty stated they pick up the students from school, bus them to the activity, provide a meal, and bus them back to school in time for the late buses. Goss commented, he considers this group and other similar as a charitable group, and believes you're designating for everyone in town who to donate too and how does this benefit the Town. Discussion ensued how it benefits the Ossipee children and families, who participate in the programs.

Smith noted the only reason he has voted no on some of these requests is due to the budget shortfall this year. But if it's determined to be an error, he may change his vote.

A **Motion** by Gridley to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$5,000.00 for Kingswood Youth Center. McConarty seconded. No further discussion. All others voted in favor. Smith, Gridley and Goss opposed. **Motion passed 5-3.**

L.I.F.E. Ministries Food Pantry: The 2019 proposed budget is \$6,000.00

Their goal is to provide every person in a family with 3 meals per day for 3 days per week, (9 meals per person each week). (Board of Selectmen recommended).

Concerns and discussion ensued over are the validation standards the same when someone applies to the town for assistance...are the same standards required for the food pantries.

A **Motion** by McConarty to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$6,000.00 for L.I.F.E. Ministries Food Pantry. Parker seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 8-0.**

Ossipee Revitalization Group (Ossipee Main Street): The 2019 proposed budget is \$5,000.00

The 2019 proposed budget of \$5,000.00 is level funded from last year (Board of Selectmen recommended).

Discussion: Gridley noted she has had and continues to have a hard time to support this group because as stated on the application under *“the purpose for the funds requested: is to purchase supplies and materials for carrying out our goals of economic growth, revitalization, and building community spirit. It will help to pay operating expenses such as heat, lights, telephone and internet.”* She notes the fundraising and events have decreased. Discussion ensued over how similar this is to what the Economic Development Council is actively promoting.

A **Motion** by D. Gridley to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$5,000.00 for Ossipee Revitalization Group: (Ossipee Main Street). McConarty seconded. No discussion. A vote was taken. **Motion failed 0-8.**

Medication Bridge: No budget requested

Northern Human Services: The Mental Health Center - The 2019 proposed budget is \$4,425.00

The proposed budget of \$4,425.00 is level funded from last year (Board of Selectmen recommended). No discussion.

A **Motion** by Parker to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$4,425.00 for Northern Human Services. McConarty seconded. No discussion. All others voted in favor. Smith opposed. **Motion passed 7-1.**

Ossipee Children's Fund: The 2019 proposed budget is \$20,000.00

The proposed budget of \$20,000.00 is level funded from last year (Board of Selectmen recommended). No Discussion.

A **Motion** by McConarty to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$20,000.00 for Ossipee Children's Fund. Parker seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 8-0.**

Ossipee Historical Society: The 2019 proposed budget is \$4,000.00.

The proposed budget of \$4,000.00 is level funded from last year. (Board of Selectmen recommended). No discussion.

A **Motion** by Morgan to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$4,000.00 for Ossipee Historical Society. Parker seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 8-0.**

White Mountain Community Health Center: The 2019 proposed budget is \$3,813.00.

The 2019 proposed budget of \$3,813.00 (per the application requested) is a decrease of \$547.00 from last year (Board of Selectmen recommended). No discussion.

A **Motion** by Gridley to approve the 2019 proposed budget of 3,813.00 for White Mountain Community Health Center. McConarty seconded. No discussion. All others voted in favor. Smith opposed. **Motion passed 7-1.**

Central NH VNA & Hospice: The 2019 proposed budget is \$14,000.00

The 2019 proposed budget of \$14,000.00 is level funded from last year (Board of Selectmen recommended). No discussion.

A **Motion** by Parker to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$14,000.00. McConarty seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 8-0.**

Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. – Tyler Blain Homeless Shelter:

The 2019 proposed budget is \$6,500.00. Board of Selectmen took no action because applicant did not come before the Board. Budget Committee - **No decision rendered.**

White Horse Addiction Center, Inc.: The 2019 proposed budget is \$5,000.00

The proposed budget of \$5,000.00 is level funded from last year (Board of Selectmen recommended). Discussion on the benefit it serves and opposition to the purpose for which the funds are requested.

A **Motion** by Millette to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$5,000.00. Smith seconded. No discussion. All others voted in favor. Gridley opposed. **Motion passed 7-1.**

Children Unlimited, Inc.: The 2019 proposed budget is \$3,000.00

The 2019 proposed budget of \$3,000.00 is level funded from last year. Discussion ensued on the services provided home visits and family support services to reduce child abuse and neglect.

A **Motion** by McConarty to approve the 2019 proposed budget of \$3,000.00. Smith seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 8-0.**

West Ossipee Fire Department:

Sutherland informed the committee that the 2019 proposed budget is being increased by \$7,500.00, per notification from NHDOT to prepay for a dry hydrant installation at Lovell River Bridge for the bridge replacement project.

AGAPE Ministries Servants, Inc.: Have withdrawn their application.

Schools Out! Program:

The 2019 proposed budget is \$45,000.00. Mark McConkey sent an email stating he was unable to ascertain additional funding.

Any Other Business Which May Come Before This Meeting

- Decision to invite Ossipee Concerned Citizens, Inc. - Day Care, Tri County CAP Inc. - Carroll County Transit, Ossipee Revitalization Group (Ossipee Main Street) to come before the Budget Committee to answer questions at the next meeting to be held on January 16, 2019.
- Discussion on when to meet and review Warrant Articles, Petition Articles and a request to expedite an explanation from DRA over the Town's evaluation report.
- Smith has scheduled a meeting with the School Superintendent to be held on December 3, 2018, on how the school system budget is determined.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Wednesday, **January 16, 2019** - Budget Committee Meeting - 6:30pm - 7:30 pm at Freight House for 2019 Budget Review Schedule.

Adjournment:

A **Motion** by M. McConarty to adjourn the meeting. Smith seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 8-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Next Meeting: **January 16, 2019 @ 6:30 pm**

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Board on –

Date

Joe Goss, Chairman
Budget Committee