

Budget Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2018

These minutes were transcribed by Ellen White, Town Administrator. The meeting was held in the Bub Avery Memorial Gymnasium at Town Hall.

Call to Order:

Chairman Goss called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Attendance:

Joe Goss, Chairman; Jonathan Smith, Vice-Chairman; Donna Gridley; Roland Millette; Louise Sutherland, West Ossipee Fire Representative; Marie McConarty, Ctr. Ossipee Fire Representative; Lynne Parker, Ossipee Corner Fire Representative; Richard Morgan, Selectmen's Representative; Sandra Martin, Selectman; Martha Eldridge, Selectman; and Ellen White, Town Administrator.

Discussion:

Goss announced the Town Christmas Party will take place at the Town Hall on Monday, 12/24/2018, at 12:00 PM.

Goss opened the floor to Smith for discussion on the tax rate increase. Smith stated that the assumption was that even though there was an increase in the budget, the increase in assessment value should have been significant enough to offset a tax rate impact. The result in 2018 was a 9.2% increase after an offset from the Unreserved Fund Balance (Surplus) in the amount of \$250,000 was utilized.

Discussion took place on where surplus funds come from and the Selectmen's authority to use an amount, within the allowance guidelines set by the Department of Revenue, to reduce amounts to be raised by taxation or to offset the tax rate.

Morgan reviewed the budget process and how if any increase is kept in line with growth, the tax rate impact should be minimal.

The 2018 approved budget and tax rate calculations were reviewed. The question of where the 9.2% increase came from was continually asked. The Budget Committee was under the impression they had approved a 3.8% increase, and the difference of the increase to 9.2% was unexplained. Morgan and White responded that the operating budget had not been overspent and there were no other unplanned expenditures made. A slight shortfall in the projected revenues of \$50,000 was not enough to account for the additional increase.

After lengthy discussion, White presented a spreadsheet on the 2018 budget overview containing the operating budget and warrant articles proposed showing the overall proposed increase of 8.6%. It was explained that additional funds were added on the floor of Town Meeting which likely increased the overall percentage by 0.6%. These items included funding to White Horse Addiction Center, Children Unlimited, and \$17,000 additionally into the Highway Department budget to add the fog line striping on Town roads.

White explained that the projected revenues are static with not much fluctuation unless additional grant funding is requested for specific projects. Morgan stated that historically the Selectmen have used \$100,000-\$150,000 from surplus to offset the tax rate.

Parker stated that the Town has no debt, no red listed bridges, and are operating within the budgets presented which is very positive. She stated that the surplus should be looked at as a true emergency fund where funds are invested for the future. Additional discussion ensued.

Adjournment:

Being no further input, Smith made a motion to adjourn. Sutherland seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Minutes approved by a majority of the Board on: _____, 2019

Joseph Goss, Chairman
Budget Committee