

OSSIPEE BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 2021

Minutes summarized by Laura Nash, Budget Committee Recording Secretary, amendments are noted by ***bold/italic*** type.

Call to Order: ***Donna Gridley*** called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance – was recited

Attendance by Roll Call: –Donna Gridley, Louise Sutherland, Lynne Parker, Donna Sargent, Roland Millette, Rachel Ciarmella,

Absent: Joe Goss, Martha Eldridge (Selectmen's Rep.) and Matt Sawyer, Jr, Town Administrator

Late Arrival: Cameron Quigley arrived at 6:43 pm.

Meeting Minutes: Review of minutes from January 6th, 2021.

Nash noted a misspelling of Millette's last name at the bottom of page 3 under adjournment on the draft copy the committee received but has been corrected on the final copy for signature.

A **Motion** by Millette to approve the meeting minutes of January 6th, 2021 as amended. Sutherland seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.**

Selectmen's Report: Gridley noted with no Selectmen present the committee would proceed to review Fire Precincts proposed budgets.

2020-2021 Budget Schedule

2021 Town Budget Proposal by Department: Review Fire Precinct Proposed Budget Updates:

Center Ossipee Fire Precinct: Fire Commissioner, Joe Deighan and Cameron Quigley presented for Center Ossipee Fire Department's proposed budget. Informed the Committee that the precinct just received a 20% water rate increase. The precinct is being charged for 48 hydrants but Deighan counts they are responsible for 43 hydrants. They are responsible for the hydrants along with water and sewer bill for the department. But due to the rate increase they are requesting \$5,000.00 extra for the hydrant line item and \$500.00 for the water & sewer line item.

Warrant Articles:

Article for LED Street Light Replacement: in the amount of \$27,781.00

Deighan noted after investigation it was determined that the fire department is responsible for the street lights. The cost to replace 45 Halogen street lights to LED lights is \$27,781.00. Eversource estimates about a 40% cost decrease by switching to LED lights. Eversource contracts with a company out of Manchester for the transition and they offer an incentive per fixture with a potential reimbursement of \$9,400.00. Matt Trahan of Economic Development Council has applied for a \$10,000.00 USDA grant but is awaiting notification, which would leave a balance of \$8,381.00 to come from taxation.

Article for Fire Apparatus (New Truck): in the amount of \$642,000.00

Deighan noted after speaking with DRA the department cannot use Capitol Reserve Funds for a Lease Agreement with an escape clause. They can use \$110,000.00 from the Capitol Reserve Fund for the last payment.

Parker noted the department is looking for a 7-year Lease Agreement but the \$110,000.00 does not specify when they plan to use it. She also noted that if DRA does not authorize the use of \$110,000.00, it will need to be factored into their budget for that year.

Deighan noted the cost of the truck is \$642,000.00 with \$110,000.00 coming from the Capital Reserve Fund, pending DRA approval, and leasing the remaining \$532,000.00 over a 7-year lease for a yearly payment of \$87,127.00 to come from taxation. Discussion ensued over the interest cost, appropriate funding and responsible budgeting.

Millette inquired about the next vehicle to be replaced. Deighan noted the water tanker is the next vehicle to be replaced possibly within 5 - 10 years. Discussion ensued over how many trucks the department has that will need replacing, reducing the number of trucks while maintaining the technology of the vehicles, how to start budgeting and adding funds to the Capital Reserve Fund to reduce the impact on taxpayers. Deighan and Quigley explained the ongoing challenges within the department, learning curves to overcome and how they plan on going forward. Deighan needs to correct the wording on the warrant articles and present to the Budget Committee on February 3, 2021 at the 6:30 pm meeting for final recommendation.

A **Motion** by Millette to take under advisement the Center Ossipee Fire Precinct 2021 proposed budget until the final budget with the properly written warrant articles are submitted by the next meeting on February 3, 2021 – 6:30 PM at the Freight House. Sutherland seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.**

Gridley asked for clarification on the number of hydrants Center Ossipee Fire Precinct services. Deighan replied the Town has them paying on 48 hydrants, but per Center Ossipee Fire Precinct roll call list they service 43 hydrants. Deighan has requested a list of their hydrants from the Town Hall.

General discussion ensued over hydrant rates, water system leaks, quality and rate cost and a suggestion of a zoning ordinance for anyone within a certain distance should be on Town water.

West Ossipee Fire Precinct:

Louise Sutherland presented for West Ossipee Fire Precinct; Sutherland conveyed the bottom line for the proposed 2020 budget is the same. Health & Safety increased from \$4,950.00 to the proposed \$5,500.00 because WOFP offers physicals to its precinct members. The loan and principal payments were started on the mini-pumper, and the increase in payroll is due to providing daytime staffing. Warrant Articles #1 and #2 are the same, Article #3, Sutherland explained to Quigley it's to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand (\$20,000.00) for the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, which encompasses firefighting and rescue equipment and vehicles capital reserve fund.

Parker proposed the total of \$446,175.00, Sutherland confirmed.

A **Motion** by Parker to approve the 2021 proposed budget of \$446,175.00 for the West Ossipee Fire Precinct. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Ossipee Corner Fire Precinct:

Lynne Parker reported for Ossipee Corner Fire Precinct 2021 proposed budget in the amount of \$372,382.00, plus Warrant Article #1 in the amount of \$95,000.00 for the Capital Reserve Fund for Fire Apparatus, Warrant Article #2 in the amount of \$30,000.00 for the Capital Reserve Fund for Building Fund totaling \$497,312.00 plus Warrant Article #3 to see if the Precinct will appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand (\$20,000.00) from the Unreserved Fund (non-taxation) towards the purchase of a cardiac monitor for a total 2021 proposed

budget of \$517,382.00. The Trust Funds are reportedly over \$100,000.00 and the department plans a cash purchase of a truck this year.

A **Motion** by Sutherland to approve the 2021 proposed budget of \$446,175.00 for the Ossipee Corner Fire Precinct. Ciarmella seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion Passed 7-0.**

Parker commented the department has 17 acres behind the ballfield in Ossipee Corner, but no funds to build a new station at this time. Millette suggested a grant. But Quigley commented because Ossipee is split between 3 precincts, so grants are very hard to get for Ossipee. Parker commented Ossipee is 74 square miles, Ossipee Corner has 40 sq. mi. of the 74 sq. mi. with 1,800 residents and \$4,000,000.00 to construct a basic station that is not an empty metal building. Parker had requested a community room during the design phase of the new station for a training room but in an effort to save money the community room was cut from the design.

General discussion ensued over how the fire departments have improved working together over the past 5 years through equipment sharing and the mutual aid response is tremendous through all 3 fire departments.

Next Meeting:

Budget Committee Mtg. - **February 3rd, 2021** – 6:30 PM at the Town Hall Bud Avery Memorial Gymnasium

PUBLIC HEARING – February 3rd, 2021 – 7:00 PM at the Town Hall Bud Avery Memorial Gymnasium

Budget Committee Mtg. - **February 4th, 2021** – (Snow Day or Second Mtg. Date) – 6:30 PM at the Town Hall Bud Avery Memorial Gymnasium

PUBLIC HEARING – February 4th, 2021 – (Snow Day or Second Mtg. Date)– 7:00 PM at the Town Hall Bud Avery Memorial Gymnasium

Budget Committee Mtg. - **February 11th, 2021** – to sign MS 737's - 6:30 PM at the Freight House

Any Other Business Which May Come Before This Meeting: None presented.

Adjournment:

A **Motion** by Millette to adjourn the meeting. Parker seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.** The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Board on –

Date

Joe Goss, Chairman
Budget Committee

Donna Gridley, Vice-Chair
(In the absence of the Chairman)