

**OSSIPEE BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 10, 2021**

Meeting recorded for Minutes summarized 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.

Pledge of Allegiance – was recited by all attendees.

Attendance by Roll Call: – Joe Goss, Donna Gridley, Lynne Parker, Roland Millette, Donna Sargent, Cameron Quigley, Dallas Emery, Connie Billings, and Matt Sawyer, Jr, Town Administrator

Absent: Jonathan Smith (Selectmen's Rep.), Andrea Picard, Finance Administrator, TJ Eldridge and WOFB Representative

Meeting Minutes: Review of minutes from October 27, 2021.

A **Motion** by Billings to approve the meeting minutes of October 27, 2021. Emery seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.**

**Selectmen's Report & 2021 YTD - Budget Report:**

Matt Sawyer, Jr. brought one copy of the expenditure report noting it's a little misleading because there are still year-end expenditures to come out but funds available is approximately 1.7 million with roughly 2-month's remaining to the year.

**2021 Revenue Report:**

Matt Sawyer, Jr. noted per the tax rate was officially set this afternoon as shown on the worksheet. The revenues ended up just under 2.7 million but does not include the ARPA Funds. The Treasury has not set the rule on the ARPA Funds and because of that DRA instructed that the funds would not be able to use this year but will be able to apply to next years budget. The Board of Selectmen approved for \$250,000.00 to be taken from the Unassigned Fund Balance to Reduce Taxes. Even after that use there remains 1 million, which is about 11% which keeps in compliance with the policy set last year. By the end of this year the Town should have approximately 2 million in surplus. The Municipal rate went down by 0.11 but the School rate more than made up for that. The Municipal rate is \$18.33, and the Village rate is \$6.30 per thousand. The overall rate which includes Municipal, County, Local Education and State Education is \$18.33, which is an overall increase of 0.48, because Municipal went down but School rate went up 0.64. The Total Assessment Valuation is greater than \$785 million with the anticipation of a significant increase with the new evaluation. There was a significant amount of pick ups this year by the Zoning Officer due to new construction.

Emery inquired when the next Town wide evaluation is due. Sawyer noted the next complete evaluation is due in 2023 providing the equalization ratio does not drop below the threshold of 90. Sawyer will clarify if the complete evaluation is due in 2023 or 2024 and will report back to the committee. Emery thought the evaluation is usually every 5 years, which reminded Sawyer to put in a warrant article for \$15,000.00 towards the evaluation. Sawyer will contact the Assessor for a total cost for a complete evaluation. Goss asked for confirmation on when the last evaluation was done.

**2022 Town Budget Proposal by Department:** Chairman Goss stated all budgets will be taken under advisement at this time.

- Library - The 2021 proposed budget request is at \$228,641.00

Maria Moulton presented the Library's proposed budget and read through each line item resulting in a decreased budget of \$7,315.95.

Discussion: No special warrant articles for this but is working with the Town on a new heating system. Sawyer stated there will be a Government Warrant Article which will include the heating system for the Library.

Chairman Goss stated all budgets will be taken under advisement at this time.

- Fire Warden - The 2021 proposed budget request is Level Funded at \$21,995.00

Chief, Adam Riley presented a level funded budget. Sawyer noted the Board of Selectmen approved the level funded budget.

- Interest Expense (formerly Long-Term Debt) - The 2021 proposed budget request is Level Funded at \$10,000.00.

Sawyer presented the 2022 proposed level funded budget even though they went over budget last year due to having to use the T.A.Note and the Selectmen agreed.

Discussion: Goss suggested leaving it at \$10,000.00 because you never know what will happen next year.

- Insurance - The 2021 proposed budget request is at \$143,000.00

Sawyer reported a bit of good news because despite premiums going up over the past few years with the Town's long standing insurer of Davis and Towle. Sawyer found a new provider in Primex Insurance which are specifically for municipalities in NH, who specialize in grievance counseling, employment law with good consultation, and was able to reduce the amount by \$2,500.00. Also approved by the Selectmen.

Discussion: Sargent inquired if this includes the health insurance. Sawyer commented it does not but is specifically Unemployment, Worker's Compensation and General (Property and Liability, i.e.. Professional Liability or if somebody slip and fell on Town property). Sargent inquired if anyone from the health insurance has contacted the Town on if they will decline payment for unvaccinated employees who contract COVID. Sawyer commented he has not received any notification of that and does not anticipate and increase. But in 2021, received a refund from Health source for less claims received that anticipated.

- Ambulance – Pre-negotiated per a 3-year contract with Action Ambulance Service.

Sawyer reported per the Assessor the complete evaluation is not due until 2024, however could be sooner due to the market and to plan for 2023 to satisfy DRA.

Discussion: Goss noted the downside to doing it sooner is 1. costing the taxpayer more money by having done more often, 2. Their playing on the fluctuation of the high value and not the average. But it's up to the State to make that decision but we have the stipulation of going every 5-years. DRA can recommend having the evaluation sooner, but State requirement is 5-years. DRA likes to have re-evaluations done when the market is high until everything crashes. Sawyer reported per the assessor the Town should budget for \$150,000.00. Discussion ensued over how much to budget on the warrant article over the next few years. Goss commented it's going to be based on the bottom-line of this budget and how much ends up in surplus before they can determine how much to budget each year without affecting the tax rate.

Chairman Goss stated all budgets will be taken under advisement at this time.

- Emergency Management - The 2021 proposed budget request is Level Funded at \$6,700.00

Sawyer reported the consultant, who come in for mitigation planning has not been paid out of this fund, which is usually around \$1,000.00. But it being level funded at \$6,700.00.

Discussion: Millette inquired about the reverse 911 program that was to be implemented. Discussion ensued over nothing ever happened with the program. Parker noted there is a similar program through the school system, and it works. Discussion ensued on how the system is supposed to work.

**Pre-Review:**

Fire Precinct - Center Ossipee  
Fire Precinct - Ossipee Corner  
Fire Precinct - West Ossipee

**Outside Agencies:**

Gridley inquire about the difference for Tri- County Cap between what was requested verses the Selectmen's request. Sawyer commented that the Selectmen have approved the increase for End 68 hours of Hunger, Starting Point and Parker pointed out that the request from Lake Host was being adding into the totals. Sawyer has since corrected the totals and the amount requested is \$170,536.00. Additional information from School's Out! Program and White Horse Addiction / Recovery was submitted.

Sawyer inquired if Jennifer Berkowitz would be required to return for more questions. The committee responded no at this time.

Parker inquired of the deadline for Warrant Article submission because they are still waiting on figures. Goss noted the warrant articles are supposed to come with the submission of the budget.

Goss inquired of the deadline for petitions. Sawyer noted the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday before Town Meeting which would be February 1, 2022. Discussion ensued for selecting the Public Hearing date.

**Next Meeting:**

**November 17, 2021 - 6:30 PM at the Freight House**

Revenues & Warrant Articles    Fire Precinct - Center Ossipee  
Water & Sewer Department    Fire Precinct - Ossipee Corner  
Police Department    Fire Precinct - West Ossipee  
Police - Special Duty

**January 19, 2022 – 6:30 PM at the Freight House – Finalize Budgets**

**February 1, 2022 – 6:30 PM at the Freight House – Warrant Articles due**

**February 2, 2022 – 6:30 PM at the Freight House – Review Warrant Articles**

**February 10, 2022 – 6:30 PM at the Town Hall Bud Avery Gymnasium**

**February 10, 2022 – 7:00 PM at the Town Hall Bud Avery Gymnasium - Public Hearing on Petition Articles**

**March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Town Election at the Town Hall Bud Avery Gymnasium**

**March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Annual Town Meeting at the Town Hall Bud Avery Gymnasium**

**Any Other Business that May Come Before the Committee:** None heard

**Adjournment:**

A **Motion** by Gridley to adjourn the meeting. Millette seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.** The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Board on

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Date

Joe Goss, Chairman  
Budget Committee

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