

## OSSIPEE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2023

Minutes have been recorded for the convenience of summarization by Laura Nash, Boards & Commissions Secretary and are deleted once the minutes are board approved; any amendments to the minutes are noted in ***bold & italic*** type.

**Call to Order:** 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, Roland Millette, Dallas Emery, Lynne Parker Brian Keyes, Jennifer Brown, Susan McGuire – Doyle, Matt Sawyer, Jr. (Town Administrator), and Jonathan Smith (Selectmen's Rep.)

**Absent:** Donna Gridley, Andrea Picard (Finance Director) and TJ Eldridge, (PW Director)

### **Regular Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes:** Committee reviewed the meeting minutes of December 7, 2022.

A **Motion** by Millette to approve the meeting minutes of December 7, 2022, as submitted. Brown seconded. Discussion by Goss noting that since the Committee did not have the paper work for the School's Out Program, the Committee will have to re-vote on that one. All voted in favor. **Motion passed. 8-0**

### **2023 Proposed Budgets:**

**Economic Development:** proposed 2023 Petition Warrant Article in the amount of \$5,000.00

Matt Sawyer, Jr. explained that the EDC has designed some signs they want made to put up promoting Center Ossipee as a destination for current and future businesses. Total cost is approximately \$9,000.00 of which they have submitted a purchase order with approximately \$4,000.00 coming from funds they had.

Goss asked for a copy of the petition warrant article. Sawyer stated the Town Clerk has verified the petition signatures. Goss noted technically it has to be presented to the budget committee for voting on. Sawyer left to get the 2023 Petition Warrant Articles from his office at 6:40 pm.

Discussion ensued over any Petition Warrant Article with a monetary value has to be presented to the Budget Committee to review and vote on.

**Selectmen's Report:** Smith noted the auditors have been on site for four days. Smith noted the auditor's said, so far it has been cleanest audit they've seen in decades. Smith commented this is due to cleaning up the finance office and making everything clean, clear and transparent.

Emery inquired if by bundling some of the budgets has helped to clean up the budget. Smith commented that helps to provide clarity on the budget side.

Matt Sawyer, Jr. returned to the meeting at 6:47pm. Goss resumed the meeting.

**School's Out Program!:** proposed 2023 Petition Warrant Article in the amount of \$45,000.00

A **Motion** by Keyes for the Budget Committee to recommend the School's Out Program! proposed 2023 Petition Warrant Article in the amount of \$45,000.00. Millette seconded. No discussion. Opposed – Goss and Parker. All others voted in favor. **Motion passed 6-2-0**

**Economic Development:** proposed 2023 Petition Warrant Article in the amount of \$5,000.00

A **Motion** by Millette for the Budget Committee to recommend the 2023 Petition Warrant Article in the amount of \$5,000.00. Keyes seconded. Discussion.

Emery question inquired about the plan. Smith explained it was apart of Envision Night and they have spoken with NHDOT about the rights-of-way. Their trying to direct people to downtown Center Ossipee and bring economic development to Center Ossipee. Discussion ensued over the size of the signs, locations, and potential road construction that may hinder the locations for the signs and it's the Zoning Officer who issues the sign permit not the Planning Board.

Goss called for a vote. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 8-0-0.**

Sawyer stated that the Warrant Article for the Whittier Covered Bridge was removed because of state aide that became available along with the (ARPA) - American Rescue Plan Act Funds. Sawyer deferred to Smith to explain. Smith noted as the Zoning Officer there are approximately 6 properties under investigation to be cleaned up. As the properties are cleaned up the money will come back to the town either through a tax lien or a lien on the property. Aside from these properties creating an eye sore, health hazards some also breed criminal activities.

The Town put forth a Warrant Article to Create a Property Cleanup ETF (Established Trust Fund) to only be used, through a vote by the Select Board, to clean some of these rundown, and health hazard properties. The cost to cleanup a property will be a tax lien or a lien on the property/owner until the Town receives the money back and the funds will go back into the General Fund. Discussion ensued over this being a new warrant article and having to re-vote to approve.

**Articles # 16: Create Property Cleanup ETF:** proposed 2023 Warrant Article of \$100,000.00

A **Motion** by Millette for the Budget Committee to recommend Create Property Cleanup ETF proposed 2023 Warrant Article of \$100,000.00. Keyes seconded.

Discussion. Susan McGuire – Doyle questioned if this amount was to be used for cleanup or legal fees. Smith responded for cleanup fees. General discussion ensued over specific properties.

Goss called for a vote for the Budget Committee to recommend Create Property Cleanup ETF proposed 2023 Warrant Article of \$100,000.00. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 8-0-0.**

Goss read Warrant Articles for West Ossipee Fire Precinct as follows:

**Fire Precinct - West Ossipee:** proposed 2023 budget of \$442,983.00

Article II: To see if the precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand and Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three dollars (\$422,983.00) for general precinct operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)

Executive \$11,450.00  
Financial Administration \$6,100.00  
Legal \$1,000.00  
Government Buildings \$53,316.00  
Insurance \$25,500.00  
Fire \$325,017.00  
Street Lighting \$600.00

A **Motion** by Keyes to recommend the 2023 proposed budget for West Ossipee Fire Precinct in the amount of \$422,983.00 for the General Operating Budget for the precinct. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed 8-0-0.**

#### Article III:

To see if the precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) for the Fire Department Firefighting and Rescue Equipment and Vehicle. Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing and maintaining vehicles and other firefighting and rescue equipment. (Majority vote required)

A **Motion** by Keyes to recommend the 2023 proposed budget of \$50,000.00 for the Fire Department Firefighting and Rescue Equipment and Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund. Millette seconded.

Discussion: Emery asked why doesn't the Fire Department already have a Capital Reserve Fund. Smith and Goss explained the Fire Department is adding to the fund. Parker noted the warrant article should state "as previously established," because if their establishing the fund they also have to give authority to expend from it.

Goss instructed the secretary to notify the West Ossipee Fire Department Commissioners to correct the verbiage of Warrant Article III.

Goss called for a vote on Warrant Article III in the amount of \$50,000.00. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion Passed 8-0-0.**

Goss went over the schedule for the next meeting.

#### Next Meeting:

**Wednesday - February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – PUBLIC HEARING** -7:00 PM at the Town Hall Bud Avery Memorial Gymnasium

**Friday – February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – SNOW DATE** for PUBLIC HEARING - 7:00 PM at the Town Hall Bud Avery Memorial Gymnasium

**Wednesday - February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 –PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND if needed)** -7:00 PM at the Town Hall Bud Avery Memorial Gymnasium

**February 22, 2023** – Meeting to sign MS 737's - 6:30 PM at the Freight House

#### Important Dates:

- February 22<sup>nd</sup> last day for BC to provide budget for warrant (Submit MS 737)
- February 27<sup>th</sup> last day to post warrant
- March 14<sup>th</sup> Town Election Day
- March 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting

**Any Other Business Which May Come Before This Meeting:** Goss called for any other business.

Emery reflected back in 2000 Annual Town Meeting, they had to separate into two locations. Some residents were at the Town Hall and other were at the School. The town had to vote on \$10,000.00 to fund to audio/visual. Emery said that somehow people are blaming him. Smith asked who is blaming him but it had nothing to do with Emery. It was the circumstances of the day that prompted opening a second location.

Goss announced there are two vacancies available on the ballot. Goss submitted his name for the ballot, but asked Roland Millette if he would accept the position, if voters were to write his name in on the ballot. Millette confirmed he would accept the position on the Budget Committee.

**Adjournment:**

A **Motion** by Emery to adjourn the meeting. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.** The meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Board on –

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Goss, Chairman

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