

**OSSIPEE BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 6, 2019**

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

**Call to Order:** Joe Goss called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – was recited

**Attendance by Roll Call:** – Joe Goss, Donna Gridley, Lynne Parker, Louise Sutherland, Jonathan Smith, Carter Clay, Roland Millette, Rachel Ciarmella, and Martha Eldridge (Selectmen's Rep.)

**Absent:** Town Administrator

**Meeting Minutes:** The Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2019 were reviewed by the committee.

A **Motion** by Gridley to approve the minutes of October 16, 2019 Budget Committee meeting as presented. Parker seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

**Selectmen's Budget Report to Date**

M. Eldridge reported the Selectmen will be setting the tax rate at 11:00 am tomorrow morning, November 7, 2019. The cost of the incinerator baler is approximately \$78,000.00, also \$28,000.00 in the Solid Waste equipment account and they will be applying for a grant through America the Beautiful, which is a 10% of the cost.

**Review 2019 Budget to Date:** N/A

**Review 2019 Revenue to Date:**

Eldridge reported revenue total to date is \$9,575,722.00.

**Review 2019 Warrant Articles:** N/A

**2020 Budget Proposals**

**Highway Department** – The 2020 proposed budget is \$1,329,050.00. Billy Eldridge presented on behalf of the Highway Department and read through each line item noting the overall budget is down \$8,950.00. Every line item from Wages to Longevity is union contractual. Telephone was decreased to \$2,000.00, Uniforms was decreased to \$3,500.00, Street Lighting was decreased to \$ 2,000.00, Gravel was decreased to \$65,000.00, Salt was increased to \$80,000.00 because they are always going over budget, Culverts remains at \$7,000.00 but will be going down because they are getting replaced, Education was decreased by \$500.00 since all the men are currently trained and all other line items are level funded.

**Committee discussion:** M. Eldridge commented on the amount of culvert repairs and replacements the crew has done. Billy Eldridge noted he checked with the Finance Administrator and she will be processing the bills in the next couple of days. Sidewalks are looking good and the state will be here either Friday or Monday to finish up the edges.

Gridley questioned Contract Services year to date total of \$53,605.00. Billy Eldridge explained because the bridge on Mill Hill collapsed and they had no choice but to repair. Smith questioned the Overtime line item of who authorizes the overtime and what justifies overtime. B. Eldridge is the one to call the guys out and is

primarily storm or bad weather related. Smith asked what determines the rate of salt to be put down on the roads. B. Eldridge said the state sets the calibration rate for the trucks and is usually 200 pounds per lane mile. B. Eldridge stated they probably use one-third to half of the state's recommendation. Smith asked what equipment is bought with \$5,000.00. B. Eldridge replied it's usually the small items like pumps, chainsaws, etc....

A **Motion** by Smith to take the Highway Department Proposed 2020 Budget of \$1,329,050.00 under advisement. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

**Highway Dept. Warrant Articles** – B. Eldridge is pricing loaders and is estimating the cost to be approximately \$225,000.00 to \$250,000.00, plus the trade-in of the current loader, which is 19 thousand hours, 20 years old, fair condition, and is showing signs of transmission issues. Part of the funds to be expensed from the reserve fund. Warrant Article for road maintenance in the amount of \$300,000.00. Year to date they have expended \$280,000.00 and are anticipating \$284,000.00 for this coming year.

**Ossipee Historical Society** – The 2020 proposed budget is \$4,000.00. Kellie Skehan presented noting it's level funded from last year. The money from the Town helps to pay the heat, electricity and maintenance on the courthouse.

Discussion: Smith inquired if the work went out to bid. Skehan noted it did but there was only one bid from Portland, due to the license requirements for lead paint.

A **Motion** by Smith to take the Ossipee Historical Society Proposed 2020 Budget of \$4,000.00 under advisement. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

**Ossipee Concerned Citizens, Inc. – Elderly Nutrition Program:** The 2020 proposed budget is \$25,000.00. Donna Sargent presented indicating the \$5,000.00 increase is due in part to food cost, salaries, for providing nutritious home delivered meals. The meals are served to 7 towns, 5 days a week, with some weekends and are delivered by about 95% volunteer drivers.

Discussion: Gridley says a week delivered. Sargent responded meals are delivered 5 days a week, some residents get weekend deliveries, and each recipient gets a blizzard bag. About 520 are served from the Ossipee Kitchen with approximately 60% are Ossipee residents. Smith asked of the increased \$5,000.00 is any of this being used for operating expense or salaries. Sargent noted it will go where it's needed but mostly toward food.

Sutherland asked for the number of individuals or families in the Santa project. Sargent noted there is about 150 families a year. But this is separate from the meals program and is fundraise separately.

Goss inquired of the rumor of Sargent retiring. Sargent reported she is getting ready to retire in 2020. Currently there is no one lined up to replace her.

A **Motion** by Smith to take the Ossipee Concerned Citizens, Inc. – Elderly Nutrition Program Proposed 2020 Budget of \$25,000.00 under advisement. Gridley seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

**Ossipee Concern Citizens, Inc. Day Care** – The 2020 proposed budget is \$20,000.00.

Donna Sargent presented on behalf of the daycare commenting part of the substantial increase is due in part because they have not asked for an increase in quite a long time. The care takers are now licensed through the State of NH for a “**Licensed Plus**, which is a quality rating system that recognizes NH childcare programs for efforts to improve the quality of care for young children and rewards programs that strive to improve their practices and staff qualifications.” Because they are state subsidized, they are required to be open when schools are closed due to weather or holidays. Sargent reported they have accumulated approximately \$40,000.00 in debt over time, due to parents not paying for childcare. They have tried to recoup from the parent's, and some have paid what they could, but they will also not let anyone go without. Sargent commented these figures are

all estimates based on what has been received in the past but there is no guarantee they will receive the same year to year.

Discussion: Parker noted the sources of revenue is quoted to be \$193,350.00 and expenses are quoted to be \$182,666.00, leaving a surplus of \$10,684.00. Parker questioned the census data and the bad debt issue.

Eldridge, Ciarmella, Gridley, Clay and Sutherland had no questions. Millette recused since he is on the Board of OCC.

Smith had questions concerning asking taxpayers to pay for such an increase when there is no policy or plan in place to collect on the bad debt accounts.

Goss inquired if Freedom and Effingham pay for childcare. Sargent replied that only ask Ossipee parents to pay for childcare.

A **Motion** by Gridley to take the Ossipee Concern Citizens, Inc. Day Care Proposed 2020 Budget of \$20,000.00 under advisement. Eldridge seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

**Life Ministries, Inc.** - The 2020 proposed budget is \$6,000.00.

Kent Cromwell, President conveyed they distribute food and personal hygiene products at no cost to local qualified low-income residents. Their goal is to provide every person in a family with 10 meals per person each week. They provide service to 25 Communities.

Concerns and discussion ensued over whether the validation standards are the same when someone applies to the town for assistance...are the same standards required for the food pantries and the process for ensuring no one is abusing the system.

A **Motion** by Gridley to take the Life Ministries, Inc Proposed 2020 Budget of \$6,000.00 under advisement. Eldridge seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

**Ossipee Children's Fund** - The 2020 proposed budget is \$20,000.00. Jane Podsen is level funded from last year. They provide families of low-income opportunities for their children that might not otherwise be available to them. Families who meet eligibility guidelines are awarded scholarships to assist with cost of childcare, enrichment, recreation and educational opportunities and programs.

Committee discussion: There were 227 awards issued in Ossipee and payments are paid directly to the provider.

A **Motion** by Millette to take the Ossipee Children's Fund Proposed 2020 Budget of \$20,000.00 under advisement. Sutherland seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

**Schools Out! Program** – The 2020 proposed budget is \$45,000.00. Jen Berkowitz presented the proposed budget which is level funded from last year. The School's Out Program "provides a safe, caring and enriching after school environment, which fosters the development of academic and social skills for the students of Ossipee, NH through family, school and community partnerships." Ossipee Central School offers daily afterschool activities for Ossipee students since 2003. The afterschool program includes a daily snack, homework clubs, a wide variety of enrichment clubs and daily late bus transportation to local "drop-offs sites" throughout Ossipee. Because they are not a 501c3, it's becoming increasingly difficult to receive grant funding and continue to use the school as their fiscal agent. Berkowitz read a list of activities and programs they offer throughout the year. They are on the second year of a three-year federal grant, which may not get renewed. Fees are based on a sliding scale per income. They had 770 volunteers; 141 students currently enrolled in the program with approximately 200 per year.

Committee discussion: Parker commented that she is a volunteer and supports the program and received more than double from the past budget year with the understanding they were not getting a federal grant. Parker informed Berkowitz, she will have a hard time convincing voter to pay more than what they are

currently contributing. Parker suggested applying to become a 501c3. Berkowitz stated becoming a 501c3 it results hire administrative fees with insurance, etc...

Goss suggested further research and contacting NH Charitable Foundation, the Governor's Office or Executive Counsel because there are plenty of public education and private grants available.

A **Motion** by Gridley to take the **Schools Out! Program** Proposed 2020 Budget of \$45,000.00 under advisement. Parker seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

**Caregivers of Southern Carroll County & Vicinity, Inc.** - The 2020 proposed budget is \$3,000.00. Louise Gehman presented the proposed budget. It's an interfaith volunteer coalition that provides local and out of town transportation for medical appointments. These are provided without charge to members of 25 communities throughout Ossipee, Alton, Tuftonboro, and Wolfeboro to enable them to remain in their homes as long as possible. Services are provided for trips out of town appointments as far as Concord, Manchester, Dartmouth-Hitchcock & Portland, Maine. Drivers are paid \$0.45 per mile for drivers who travel more than 50 miles or more.

Committee discussion: Smith inquired of anyone abusing the service. Ms. Gehman stated they have been the occasional person, but they will usually inform that person that they will no longer provide service to them. Goss asked if anyone utilizes the Blue Moon busses. If the drivers are busy or the person needs to go to Boston, they will suggest using the Blue Moon Busses.

A **Motion** by Smith to take \$3,000.00 for Caregivers of Southern Carroll County & Vicinity, Inc. Proposed 2020 Budget under advisement. Ciarmella seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

**Freedom Food Pantry** – The 2020 proposed budget is \$5,000.00. Freedom Food Pantry supplies food and other items to those in need who register and meet qualifications per State and Federal (USDA) Regulations. In the past 12 months, Ossipee client families use the Freedom Food Pantry on a regular basis and make up 17% to 39% of clients each month. This year they are requesting \$5,00.00 instead of the usual \$8,000.00 which is a 37% decrease in funding due to a decrease of Ossipee participants.

Committee discussion: No questions from the Budget Committee

A **Motion** by Parker to take the Freedom Food Pantry Proposed 2020 Budget of \$5,000.00 under advisement. Gridley seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

**End 68 Hours of Hunger** – The 2020 proposed budget is \$5,000.00. Ilene Leavitt was present to inform the committee that End 68 Hours of Hunger provides service to Wolfeboro, Tuftonboro, Ossipee and Middleton. Their service is to purchase food for the weekends during the school year and summer school programs for student's pre-school through grade 6 in the Governor Wentworth Regional School District. Students in need of food are identified by school staff. They 25 active volunteers including Team Leaders. Cost is \$12.00 per school weekend bag and \$15.00 per summer weekends. They support 80 Ossipee students including Headstart and 30 students throughout the summer. There are 40 volunteers that help with deliveries on Thursday for the kids to take home on Friday's. One goal is offer more to kids in the summer. There is also legislation in the works to eliminate many of the SNAP recipients which is a government-funded intervention of food stamps, is now known as the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP).

Committee discussion: Parker commented that it'd wonderful this is all accomplished through volunteers. Smith inquired to the type of food being put into the bags. Ilene Leavitt conveyed a list of healthy and hearty foods they provide to each bag and recipient.

A **Motion** by Gridley to take the End 68 Hours of Hunger Proposed 2020 Budget of \$5,000.00 under advisement. Ciarmella seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

**Children Unlimited, Inc.** – The 2020 proposed budget is \$3,000.00. Barbara Campbell of the Family Connection Resources was here to present. The requested funds are specifically for the Family Connection Resources Center to assist with Ossipee home visiting costs, and the request is for level funding despite an increase in families seen. They started the year off with 38 Ossipee families and currently are servicing 16 active families. They provide assistance with finding resources, a lot of transportation services for medical appointments, to Division of Youth & Families, and provide crisis intervention, parenting classes, anything to kids safe from drugs, abuse and domestic violence.

Committee discussion: Millette asked if they only provide service to families in crisis or through referrals. Ms. Campbell responded they get a lot of referrals from DCY&F, and Ossipee schools. They get calls from school guidance and teachers on any student they have concerns about. They will then partner with the parents to see if they can help make things better at home. Due to privacy laws, they can only refer to other agencies when a family consent.

Smith addressed the expense sheet decrease which looks like it was due to personnel. Ms. Campbell acknowledged they did lose a finance person and are hoping to find a replacement. Smith noted but you have not budgeted for a new employee. Ms. Campbell will have to confer with the administration and get back to the Budget Committee.

A **Motion** by Smith to take the Children Unlimited, Inc. Proposed 2020 Budget of \$3,000.00 under advisement. Parker seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

**Green Mountain Conservation Group** – The 2020 proposed budget is \$2,000.00 for Water Quality Testing. Goss stated that the Budget Committee has no paperwork from GMCG. Larry Wogman – Chairman does not know why because he thought it was submitted. He stated their asking for level funding of \$2,000.00. They promote research, education, advocacy, land conservation, land trust and water quality testing. Mr. Wogman introduced Jill Emerson – Water Quality Coordinator, who spoke on the water quality education program they offer to the schools. Wogman noted they are part of a seven-town area which oversees the Ossipee aquifer. They educate children in the schools but also offer adult classes and seminars as well.

Committee discussion: Eldridge noted the Selectmen have not received the paperwork. Wogman will track it down and get it over to the office. Parker inquired about education in Ossipee. Emerson responded they have an Ossipee Aquifer Advisory Committee that individuals can join, and programs are run out of this group as well. GMCG has other agencies come and present educational talks and seminars. Emerson works with Amanda McQuade from VLAC in Concord. GMCG volunteer their services for monitoring the lakes, bays, rivers and streams for bacteria, phosphorus, and nitrogen and report back to NHDES.

Carter Clay inquired about the monitoring of Duncan Lake. Smith inquired about what is causing the phosphorus to bloom. Emerson conveyed warmer water, and less flushing lakes. Smith asked about the Lake Host program. Emerson responded Madison has a pretty good host but with any program “it only as good as the person checking the boats.”

A **Motion** by Gridley to take the Green Mountain Conservation Group Proposed 2020 Budget of \$2,000.00 under advisement. Millette seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken.

#### **Any Other Business Which May Come Before This Meeting:**

Gridley asked to discuss the OCC Daycare. They have lost out on \$40,000.00 from parents who cannot pay. There needs to be a better enforcement policy. Millette agreed and stated this is the first he is hearing about this \$40,000.00 debt. Is this accumulated of years or one year and what is the policy for recouping bad debt.

#### **Next Meeting:**

**November 7, 2019 @ 6:30 pm**

- Outside Agencies (Cont.)

- Fire Precinct to submit by **November 13, 2019 @ 6:30 pm**
- Fire Precinct & Warrant Articles to be presented on **November 20, 2019 @ 6:30 pm**

**Adjournment:**

A **Motion** by Gridley to adjourn the meeting. Smith seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.** The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Board on –

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Goss, Chairman  
Budget Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Smith, Vice-Chair  
*(In the absence of the Chairman)*