

Approved: _____
Approved with changes: _____
Unapproved: _____

Effingham Budget Committee Minutes
68 School Street, Effingham
January 14, 2020

Members Present: Dave Strauss (chair), Theresa Swanick, Leo Racine (vice chair), Tom Hart, Jory Augenti, Chuck Fuller (selectmen's rep).

Members Absent: Tim Eldridge.

Others Present: Nate Fogg, Mike Cahalane (selectman), John Meisner (selectman).

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Minutes

The Budget Committee (BC) reviewed the minutes from the December 17th, 2019 meeting.

A motion was made by Leo Racine to approve the December 17th minutes as printed. The motion was seconded by Tom Hart. The vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Theresa Swanick arrived at the meeting.

New Business

Dave Strauss reviewed the BC's Process Instructions. The BC has completed section 4.5, unless there are any last-minute budget or warrant article changes.

Section 4.6 includes approving the last BC minutes, signing the MS-737 when ready, and obtaining and verifying the GWRSD enrollment. There is a short time frame for verifying the GWRSD enrollment and this is an important task to make sure that Effingham is not paying for students that are not located in Effingham. Section 4.7 relates to school enrollment also. The BC will assist in any way necessary to help the BoS office validate every student on the list.

The budget, as approved, will raise the tax rate by \$0.35 as long as the Municipal Safety Building fund is dissolved, and the money returned to the general fund. If the fund is not dissolved by a vote of the town, the tax rate will increase by \$0.65. These numbers include both the operating budget and special warrant articles. This does not include the school portion of the tax rate.

The budget sheets handed out include the warrant article number that each line relates to. The warrant articles are numbered for budget review only and the numbers will change when the entire warrant is put together. As it stands today, the budget warrant articles would start with number 8.

The BC thoroughly reviewed how the budget numbers work with the warrant articles and with the MS-737.

The warrant articles and MS-737 numbers have been compared and reviewed by several members of the BC and the members felt that the numbers are correct as presented.

February 4th is the last date for petition warrant articles which could change the budget. The budget public hearing is scheduled for February 10th at with a snow date of February 13th. Either meeting will begin at 5:15pm with the public hearing scheduled to begin at 5:30pm.

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Other Business

Dave Strauss reminded the BC of the presentation by DRA to the BC on Wed, January 22, 2020 at 4:30pm. Members are strongly encouraged to attend. Other members of the community are also welcomed to attend to gain a better understanding of the how the Department of Revenue Administration works with budgets and determines the tax rates.

Dave Strauss will share his budget notes with Leo Racine and others prior to the Town Meeting, which he will be unable to attend.

2/10/2020- Budget Hearing (Snow date 2/13/2020).

3/10/2020- Town Voting.

3/14/2020- Town Meeting.

When the MS-737 is ready to be signed, Dave Strauss will notify the BC who will come in individually to sign the form.

Next Meeting Date

The Budget Committee will meet on January 22nd at 4:30pm to hear a presentation from DRA. The next regular BC meeting will be on February 4th. This meeting will be to finalize the warrant articles and review the year end Budget to Actual report. If there are no changes to the warrant articles or any petitioned warrant articles submitted, this meeting may be cancelled.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Chuck Fuller to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Hart. The vote was unanimous in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.