

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved with changes: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unapproved: \_\_\_\_\_

**Effingham Budget Committee Minutes**  
**68 School Street, Effingham**  
**November 26, 2019**

**Members Present:** Dave Strauss (chair), Theresa Swanick, Leo Racine (vice chair), Tom Hart, Tim Eldridge, & Jory Augenti.

**Members Absent:** Chuck Fuller (selectmen's rep).

**Others Present:** Nate Fogg, John Meisner (selectman), Mike Cahalane (selectman), Erik Jones, Doris Sirois, Deb Weinstein, and Mitch Yeaton.

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

**Non-Profit Presentations**

**Freedom Food Pantry**, presented by Doris Sirois.

The Freedom Food Pantry serves Freedom, Effingham, and Ossipee. In 2018, 36% of their clients came from Effingham. In 2019 this percentage rose to 41%. The clients are mostly seniors and disabled. They are requesting level funding for 2020. The cost of their food has dropped because of the trade tariffs with China reducing the amount of food from the U.S. going to China. The same amount of food is available, leaving more food available to the Food Pantry, including more meat than in the past. The cost of their food is \$5.14 per person per year.

**Starting Point**, presented by Deb Weinstein.

In 2018, Starting Point provided 477 services to 30 clients. In Effingham they provided 177 services to 17 clients in Effingham. They provide access to shelters/housing to victims of domestic and sexual abuse. The 30 clients are the primary individuals, however the number of individuals served is much larger when you include children and pets. They provide support services beyond housing. They request \$1,500 per town served to help support their programs.

**White Horse**, presented by Mitch Yeaton.

They served 197 in 2018 and this number has grown to 237 in 2019. They expect the number to reach 250 by the end of the year. They served an additional 17 clients from Effingham this year. They provide recovery services for mental health and substance abuse. They serve ages 6 older. Their Ossipee location offers 24/7 availability of clothing and food. There are lockers available outside of the Ossipee location for individuals to obtain these needed items. They provide transportation for individuals to shelters. The dental services, housing, transportation services they provide are not covered by grant money they receive. They serve Wakefield, Ossipee, Effingham, and Tuftonboro. 70% of their clients are on Medicaid. White Horse plans to open an office in Conway in the near future.

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**Minutes**

The Budget Committee (BC) reviewed the minutes from the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**A motion was made by Tim Eldridge to approve the November 12<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Dave Strauss. The vote was 4-0-2 in favor of the motion, with Leo Racine and Tom Hart abstaining.**

**Budget Reviews**

Budgets approved to date will increase the overall town budget by \$173.

**Non-Profit Budgets**

The Non-Profit budgets are being presented to the BC unapproved by the Board of Selectmen (BoS). The BC and BoS are reviewing these budget requests together.

Selectmen Mike Cahalane stated that he is in favor of programs that support youth and families. John Meisner stated that he is also in favor of services that support the youth and since many services are located in southern NH he also supports transportation to those services.

The Non-Profit budget has typically represented about 1% of Effingham's overall budget.

**4445.2 Meals on Wheels**

Current budget \$4,500. Budget request \$4,500.

**Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget as requested. Tim Eldridge seconded the motion.**

Tim Eldridge noted that he had worked out the Non-Profit budgets with reductions of between 15% and 50% because of the budget crunch the town faces.

**Tim Eldridge made a motion to decrease the budget line to \$4,000. Leo Racine seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion. The selectmen voted 2-0 in favor of the motion.**

**Dave Strauss amended his previous motion to approve the budget line for Meals on Wheels to \$4,000. Tim Eldridge seconded the amended motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion. Roll call vote: Strauss- Yea, Leo Racine- Yea., Eldridge- Yea, Swanick- Yea, Augenti- Yea, Hart- Yea. The BoS voted 2-0 in favor of the motion.**

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**4414 RedCross**

Current budget \$250. Budget request \$650.

**Tim Eldridge made a motion to approve the budget as requested. Dave Strauss seconded the motion.**

It was noted that the budget line request was zeroed out last year; however a motion at the town meeting increased the line to \$250.

**Tim Eldridge made a motion to decrease the budget line to \$292.50. Tom Hart seconded the motion. The vote was 2-4 in favor of the motion and the motion failed.**

**Jory Augenti made a motion to decrease the budget line to \$250. Tim Eldridge seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion.**

**Tim Eldridge amended his previous motion to approve the budget line for the Red Cross to \$250. Dave Strauss seconded the amended motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion. Roll call vote: Strauss- Yea, Leo Racine- Yea., Eldridge- Yea, Swanick- Yea, Augenti- Yea, Hart- Yea. The BoS voted 2-0 in favor of the motion.**

**4414 VNA Hospice**

Current budget \$3,000. Budget request \$3,000.

**Tim Eldridge made a motion to approve the budget as requested. Dave Strauss seconded the motion.**

**Tim Eldridge made a motion to decrease the budget line to \$1,500. Leo Racine seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion.**

**Tim Eldridge amended his previous motion to approve the budget line for the VNA Hospice to \$1,500. Dave Strauss seconded the amended motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion. Roll call vote: Strauss- Yea, Leo Racine- Yea., Eldridge- Yea, Swanick- Yea, Augenti- Yea, Hart- Yea. The BoS voted 2-0 in favor of the motion.**

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**4414 Children's Unlimited**

Current budget \$2,000. Budget request \$2,000.

**Tim Eldridge made a motion to approve the budget as requested. Theresa Swanick seconded the motion.**

Children's Unlimited works to protect children from abuse and neglect.

**Tim Eldridge made a motion to decrease the budget line to \$1,000. Leo Racine seconded the motion. The vote was 4-2 in favor of the motion.**

**Tim Eldridge amended his previous motion to approve the budget line for the Children's Unlimited to \$1,000. Theresa Swanick seconded the amended motion. The vote was 4-2 in favor of the motion. Roll call vote: Strauss- Yea, Leo Racine- Yea., Eldridge- Yea, Swanick- Nea, Augenti- Nea, Hart- Yea. The BoS voted 1-0-1 in favor of the motion with Mike Cahalane abstaining.**

**4414 Ossipee Children's Fund**

Current budget \$2,000. Budget request \$4,200.

**Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget as requested. Tim Eldridge seconded the motion.**

Ossipee Children's Fund runs with 3% overhead and helps pay for children's programs that families cannot afford.

**Jory Augenti made a motion to decrease the budget line to \$2,000. Tim Eldridge seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion.**

**Dave Strauss amended his previous motion to approve the budget line for the Ossipee Children's Fund to \$2,000. Tim Eldridge seconded the amended motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion. Roll call vote: Strauss- Yea, Leo Racine- Yea., Eldridge- Yea, Swanick- Yea, Augenti- Yea, Hart- Yea. The BoS voted 2-0 in favor of the motion.**

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**4414 Starting Point**

Current budget \$1,000. Budget request \$3,972.

**Tim Eldridge made a motion to approve the budget as requested. Tom Hart seconded the motion.**

**Leo Racine made a motion to decrease the budget line to \$3,000. It failed due to the lack of a second.**

**Tim Eldridge made a motion to decrease the budget line to \$2,500. Tom Hart seconded the motion. The vote was 2-4 against the motion and it failed.**

**Leo Racine made a motion to increase the budget line to \$3,000. It failed due to the lack of a second.**

**Dave Strauss made a motion to decrease the budget line to \$1,000. It failed due to the lack of a second.**

**Theresa Swanick made a motion to increase the budget line to \$3,972. Jory Augenti seconded the motion. The vote was 2-4 against the motion and it failed.**

The BC decided to table the budget for the time being.

**4414 Tri-County Community Action**

Current budget \$3,000. Budget request \$5,000.

**Tim Eldridge made a motion to approve the budget as requested. Dave Strauss seconded the motion.**

**Dave Strauss made a motion to decrease the budget line to \$3,000. Theresa Swanick seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion.**

Tri-County Community Action provides fuel/energy assistance to 78 Effingham residents who meet certain income criteria.

**Tim Eldridge amended his previous motion to approve the budget line for the Tri-County Community Action to \$3,000. Dave Strauss seconded the amended motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion. Roll call vote: Strauss- Yea, Leo Racine- Yea., Eldridge- Yea, Swanick- Yea, Augenti- Yea, Hart- Yea. The BoS voted 2-0 in favor of the motion.**

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**4414 White Horse Addiction Center**

Current budget \$3,000. Budget request \$5,000.

**Tim Eldridge made a motion to approve the budget as requested. Tom Hart seconded the motion.**

**Dave Strauss made a motion to decrease the budget line to \$3,000. Theresa Swanick seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion.**

The BC felt it was appropriate to level fund the request.

**Tim Eldridge amended his previous motion to approve the budget line for the White Horse Addiction Center to \$3,000. Tom Hart seconded the amended motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion. Roll call vote: Strauss- Yea, Leo Racine- Yea., Eldridge- Yea, Swanick- Yea, Augenti- Yea, Hart- Yea. The BoS voted 1-1 and will revisit the line at their next BoS meeting.**

**4414 White Mtn Community Health**

Current budget \$1,000. Budget request \$1,855.

**Dave Strauss made a motion to approve the budget as requested. Tim Eldridge seconded the motion.**

**Dave Strauss made a motion to decrease the budget line to \$1,000. Tim Eldridge seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion.**

**Dave Strauss amended his previous motion to approve the budget line for the White Mtn Community Health to \$1,000. Tim Eldridge seconded the amended motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion. Roll call vote: Strauss- Yea, Leo Racine- Yea., Eldridge- Yea, Swanick- Yea, Augenti- Yea, Hart- Yea. The BoS voted 2-0 in favor of the motion.**

**4414 Children's Unlimited (Revisited)**

Previously approved at \$1,000.

**Dave Strauss made a motion to increase the approved budget to a level funded \$2,000. Theresa Swanick seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion. Roll call vote: Strauss- Yea, Leo Racine- Yea., Eldridge- Yea, Swanick- Yea, Augenti- Yea, Hart- Yea. **The BoS voted 2-0 in favor of the motion.****

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**4414 Starting Point (Revisited, previously tabled)**

Current budget \$1,000. Budget request \$3,972.

**Leo Racine made a motion to decrease the budget request to \$3,000. Theresa Swanick seconded the motion. The vote was 2-4 against the motion and it failed.**

**Tim Eldridge made a motion to decrease the budget request to \$2,500. Tom Hart seconded the motion. The vote was 4-2 in favor of the motion. Roll call vote: Strauss- Yea, Leo Racine- Yea., Eldridge- Yea, Swanick- Nea, Augenti- Nea, Hart- Yea. The BoS tabled their vote until the next BoS meeting.**

**Other Business**

The NH Primary has been set for February 11<sup>th</sup>. The BC will hold their public hearing on the 2020 budget on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm with a snow date of February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

**Next Meeting Dates**

The Budget Committee has budget review meetings set for December 3 & 10. Meetings are at 6:30pm.

**Adjournment**

**A motion was made by Tim Eldridge to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Hart. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.