

Approved *as* amended MJK 11/20/08

TOWN OF EPSOM

BUDGET COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

Present: Harvey Harkness, Chairman; Marylou Keane, Vice Chairman; Joanne Randall; Carol McGuire; Joyce Heck; Carole Brown; Larry Yeaton: Brad Keyes; David Fiorentino; Larry Caraway; Mike Wiggett; Carol McGuire

Excused: Kevin Reeves

Other Attendees: Nancy Wheeler; Joni Kitson; Mary Frambach

Harvey called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Harvey reviewed the schedule for this year's meetings which *was* previously e-mailed to all members. Joanne noted the schedule of when the Department's were to present their budgets to the Board of Selectmen, which is *as* follows:

October 6 - Town Office, Town Clerk Tax Collector, Cemetery, Parks, Swimming
October 13 - Police Department, Fire & ambulance, Emergency Management
October 20 - Library, Welfare Officer, Health Officer
October 27 - Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Conservation
November 3 - Highway Department
November 10- BCEP
November 17 - School (only for courtesy)

The Budget Committee's schedule is:

September 18 - Work Session - Review Current Expenses and expenditures
November 13 - Presentation of Selectmen's Budget and Work Session
November 20 - Work Session for Selectmen's Budget and Warrant Article Presentation
December 4 -Presentation of School District Budget and Work Session
December **11** - Selectmen's Budget and Warrant Articles
December 18 - Work Session
January 15 - Public Hearing for the Budget Committee's Recommended Town and School District Budgets

Harvey noted the Budget Committee member liaison should attend the Department presentations to the Selectmen.

Harvey reviewed the lessons the committee had discussed they learned from last year as attached to the April 17, 2008 minutes (also attached).

Joanne reviewed the budget given to the committee at the meeting and expenses to date. She reminded members that some items do not get spent until the end of the year with others being spent at the beginning of the year. Joanne noted the Selectmen have reviewed budgets with Department Heads for adjustments in some lines.

Larry Yeaton asked who the Moderator was; being told it is Jeff Keeler.

Carole Brown noted there is not dog officer, asking how those issues were currently handled. Joanne indicated the Police Department handles the complaints. The costs are for boarding, etc. of an animal if that is required.

Brad asked how the tornado affected the town. Joanne said there was less damage than from Hurricane Hannah with some drainage issues. Joanne noted more roads were damaged by Hannah. The town has the funds to repair the roads, FEMA funds will not be received until next year.

Carole Brown asked if the town has any salt, the town has enough for two or three storms.

The pressure areas were discussed, being fuel and heating oil. The Highway Department is the top concern with the Police Department next followed by the Fire Department. Joanne noted the Police Department has personnel issues due to the loss of officers. She noted the Chief and Keith Cota are working on a proposal for a salary scale.

Carole noted the Fire Department would be putting salary increases in the budget this year.

Harvey asked if there was a reduction in services at the Police Department, Joanne said only in some programs. The school program has been cut. Larry Yeaton felt they should not be using the 4- Wheel drive vehicle due to its fuel usage. Joanne reiterated there is no reduction in services; they have cut some extra items.

Nancy Wheeler reviewed the revenue figures received as of September *17th*. She noted building permits are down as were motor vehicle fees from previous years.

Joanne noted the revenues offset the tax revenues of the town, these numbers would not be seen in the budget.

Marylou asked if the county rate would be increasing this year, it will be. Harvey noted the State Legislature passed several costs to the counties that the towns have to share in.

The minutes of May 8, 2008 and June 12, 2008 were reviewed.

Larry Yeaton made a motion to accept the minutes of May 8, 2008 with Joyce seconding the motion.

Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Carole made a motion to accept the minutes of June 12, 2008 as amended with Carol McGuire seconding the motion.

Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be November 13th at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Office.

Larry made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Carol seconding the motion.

Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Harvey adjourned the meeting at 8:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Bosiak
Recording Secretary