

TOWN OF EPSOM

BUDGET COMMITTEE

JUNE 10, 2010

Present: Marylou LaFleur-Keane, Vice Chairman; Carol McGuire; Brad Keyes; Mike Wiggett; Kevin Reeves; Joanne Randall; David Fiorentino; Mona McGraw; Penny Graham

Excused: Virginia Drew

Absent: Joyce Heck

Other Attendees: Bob Sawyer; Carole Brown; Patrick Connors; Keith Cota; Nancy Wheeler

Marylou opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M, having members introduce themselves as there were new members present.

**Nominations for Chairman**

**Joanne nominated Marylou as Chairman, Kevin seconded the motion. The motion passed with Marylou abstaining.**

**Nominations for Vice Chairman**

**Carol nominated Brad as Vice Chairman, Joanne seconded the motion.**

**Dave nominated Joyce as Vice Chairman, Brad seconded the motion.**

Marylou felt they should wait to vote until Joyce arrived.

**Vacant Position**

**Joanne nominated Bob Sawyer to fill the vacant position for the 2010 – 2011 year, Kevin seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**Minutes of February 2, 2010**

The Committee reviewed the minutes.

**Joanne motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Carol seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**School Report Card**

Patrick Connors, Epsom School Principal, presented the Epsom School Report Card. He noted they included statistics for a 5 year span, including Pembroke Academy enrollment data. Some areas included sub categories. The enrollment in March 2010 was 450

students with the current enrollment being 451 students. All the teachers are classified as 'highly qualified' for the subject areas they are teaching.

The students tested lower in math in comparison to reading with the school placing more emphasis in math this year. The tests for reading and math were done at the beginning of the school year. Science tests were done at the end of the year for grades 4 and 8.

Mr. Connors discussed the test scores and how they were determined with the school district and the state. Pembroke Academy was a school "in need of improvement", but no longer is considered in need through two consecutive years of making improvements.

Mr. Connors noted the new math books recently purchased will help to raise those scores. There were questions on areas not included in the older math books. The science books are older; the school purchases kits to assist with science teaching.

The school looks for trends by individual students and groups and also uses additional testing tools to determine student needs.

Bob asked Mr. Connors his biggest concern; Mr. Connors noted the NECAP scores and meeting the goals each year. Dave asked what attributed to attendance dropping. Mr. Connors noted the awareness of health issues, i.e. symptoms of H1N1 and students staying home if they had signs of any symptoms.

Copies of the Epsom Central School Report Card are sent out each spring with additional copies placed at the Epsom Town Office and the Epsom Central School.

### **Town Budget**

Marylou asked Joanne and Nancy the best procedure to obtain information from the Department Heads. Joanne felt it was best to request information from the office.

Joanne reviewed the town budget expenditures to date and the adjustments made by the Board of Selectmen within the budget. Marylou noted this was a default budget based on the 2009 budget.

Joanne noted salaries were the biggest expense in most departments. It was noted Epsom reevaluates 20% of the properties each year so there is not such a big expense every 5 years when the State requires revaluation.

General Government Buildings include the Town Hall, Meetinghouse and the utilities and expenses for the rental space for the Town Office. Other building expenses are under the specific departments.

Joanne noted the Town has always had an Emergency Management Director, but the current director has set some specific goals, completed projects and facilitated required training for Town Officials including a table top exercise..

Mike questioned the Highway Department vehicle repairs being \$12,000.00 over budget. Nancy indicated she would have to verify this item. Marylou had spoken with Gordon Ellis, Road Agent. He noted the Highway Department is working on New Orchard Road and Drolet Road. Joanne noted many culverts were replaced and roadside mowing is on going.

Marylou asked the decision Selectmen made regarding salaries. Joanne noted they had moved money into the salary lines giving the full time employees a 4% increase and the permanent part time employees a 3% increase.

The Committee took a break from 8:13 P.M. to 8:24 P.M.

### **Revenues**

Nancy Wheeler completed an overview of the revenues to date, not including property taxes.

### **Capital Improvement Plan**

Betsy Bosiak noted she had spoken with Phil Demeritt, Chairman of the Planning Board. He will be forming a committee to complete the plan. Joanne noted the Department Heads would also have the information and should be using it to support some of their budget items.

### **Vice Chairman**

The Committee voted on Vice Chairman, electing Joyce Heck.

Joanne noted the Department Heads met with the Selectmen, usually the third Monday of the month for liaisons. She recommended the liaisons attend these meetings.

Marylou noted the next meeting would be September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 P.M. In October the Department Heads present their budgets to the Selectmen and the liaisons should attend the meetings when their departments present their budgets. The Budget Committee will meet weekly in November and December.

**Carol motioned to adjourn, Joanne seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Marylou adjourned the meeting at 8:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Bosiak  
Recording Secretary