

TOWN OF EPSOM

BUDGET COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING WITH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JUNE 29, 2009

Present: Harvey Harkness, Chairman; Marylou Keane, Vice Chairman; Joanne Randall; Joyce Heck; David Fiorentino; Brad Keyes; Carol McGuire

Board of Selectmen Members: Bob Blodgett, Chairman; Joanne Randall, Vice Chairman; Keith Cota

The Budget Committee Subcommittee had scheduled a time during the Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss with the Board potential goals for the 2010 budget.

The meeting began at 6:47 P.M.

Harvey noted the meeting was results of Dave Fiorentino's suggestion the Budget Committee have discussions with the Board of Selectmen regarding priorities for the next year's budget.

Keith Cota outlined areas he would like to have looked at:

1. Town Office Building

He would like to concentrate on a bond to expand on the Meetinghouse.

2. Roadway System

Keith would like to see the Town begin to repave roads within the older subdivisions, the cost being approximately \$100,000.00 per mile. He felt 2 to 3 miles could be completed a year.

3. Suncook River Restoration

Keith noted a Warrant Article may be needed to complete some of the work, currently they are working on completing this work at no cost to the Town.

4. Salary Structure

Keith felt this should be reviewed; especially the Administrative Staff who did not receive increases this year.

5. General Services on Town Buildings

Keith noted the Town needed to employ someone to check the buildings periodically for completing maintenance, especially during the winter. It may only be a part time position.

6. Road Department Maintenance Facilities and Salt Shed

Keith felt these facilities would be required in 3 to 5 years.

7. Economic Development Committee

A committee was formed in the past, but it did not have any funds to work with.

Joanne reiterated Keith's list as follows:

1. Town Office Facilities
2. Staff Salaries second
3. Emergency Management.

Joanne felt they should assume something may happen and she would like to see the Town have the necessary resources.

4. Economic Development

Joanne has joined the Pittsfield Chamber of Commerce, which is changing to incorporate surrounding towns. It is branching out for networking for small businesses in particular to give them additional resources.

Bob agreed with Keith and Joanne with the following his priorities:

1. Town Office Facilities
2. Roads
3. Adding to the Meetinghouse, but he felt it was not adequate for the Town Office Staff.

Joanne noted they needed to focus on a salt shed for the Highway Department before the State mandated the Town construct one.

Harvey noted hearing the reoccurring theme of a Town Office Building, asking if there was a plan and cost estimates. Keith noted there is a committee developing concepts, it has reviewed the past reports and needs assessments. He discussed concerns with the use of the Meetinghouse and the cost of developing an office and meeting room. He noted the parking would have to be expanded. They have no costs currently, but hoped to by the beginning of budget season. They are reviewing several options.

Dave asked if they had looked at expanding in the current location, Keith noted it would an additional rental cost. Keith noted they have looked for other sites to be leased in Town. Keith noted currently two meetings could not be held at the Town Office due to space limitations and storage space was an issue. Joanne noted the Welfare Department has no privacy in its current office.

Harvey encouraged them to have a plan at the beginning or soon after of the budget season.

Harvey noted last year all the money for the Highway Department passed with the total being just less than one million dollars. He indicated the Budget Committee would be looking at what projects were completed this years and what would be scheduled for next year, what the current funds are being spent for. He noted they needed to show results to the taxpayers, particularly for the roads.

Joanne noted there is a plan and the Road Agent is working on it. The Town is receiving reimbursement for some funds. Harvey noted the grants, etc. were in addition to the \$1,000,000.00. Keith noted there were four culverts damaged as a result of flooding that are being repaired with grants and reserve money.

The session ended at 7:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Bosiak
Recording Secretary