

TOWN OF EPSOM
BUDGET COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

Present: Harvey Harkness, Chairman; Marylou Keane, Vice Chairman; Carol McGuire; Joanne Randall; Brad Keyes; Mike Wiggett; Tammy Vaillancourt; Virginia Drew

Excused: Joyce Heck; Carole Brown

Absent: David Fiorentino; Kevin Reeves

Other Attendees: Nancy Wheeler; Pat Connor; Barbara Noonan

Harvey opened the meeting at 7:07 P.M.

The minutes of June 29, 2009 were reviewed and amended.

Mike made a motion to accept the minutes as amended 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.

The minutes of June 11, 2009 were reviewed and amended.

Joanne made a motion to accept the minutes as amended with Marylou 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 passed out copies of a portion of the latest version of the RSA regarding Budget Committees noting it was part of a larger Chapter.

Harvey requested Joanne review the Town Budget.

Joanne noted some of the line had been spent 100% as those items were paid at the beginning of the year with other lines remaining at 100% as those lines are not spent until the end of the year.

Joanne did not have reports from the Department Heads as they were to meet with the Board of Selectmen next week.

Joanne noted that 27% of the year is remaining with 37% of the total budget remaining.

Marylou asked if the overtime on the Police Department lines was used before the new officers were hired. Joanne noted the new officers were on the force but had been in the Academy. All regular shifts should be covered now.

Marylou asked about the repairs for Fire Department vehicles, Joanne will get the information but was aware of repairs to an engine.

Harvey asked if Joanne knew what projects had been completed by the Highway Department, Joanne will get the information.

Harvey asked about the Highway Department matching funds, Carol noted some are under the Maintenance line with others under the Reconstruction of Highways.

Marylou asked why money was remaining in the BCE'P line; Joanne noted it was not all paid at once.

Harvey noted 68% of the Welfare Budget was remaining, asking if it was enough. Joanne noted the Welfare Director does expect money to go out for fuel and mortgages this fall.

Harvey's general observation was the budget passed seems adequate as passed.

Brad asked how revenues were doing. Joanne indicated she would have to speak to the Town Clerk about revenues.

Marylou noted she had an e-mail from the Town Clerk indicating there was an increase in tax liens this year. 7% of the July property tax bills are not paid with the Tax Collector feeling additional people will not be paying the bills in December. There were 169 properties with liens placed on them in 2009 and 108 properties with liens in 2008.

Carol noted the State revenue sharing will be lower for 2009.

It was noted the increase in vehicle registrations that began August 1st will go to the State. The \$2.50 received by the Town for each registration completed in Town was increased to \$3.00. E-registrations are picking up with the Town receiving fifty cents for each one completed on line and also for each dog registration completed on line.

Joanne sent e-mails to Bob Blodgett, Highway Department liaison and the Road Agent asking for the information and also to Chief Yeaton for a summary of the Fire Department vehicle repairs.

Pat Connor and Barbara Noonan met with the Budget Committee to discuss the School Budget.

Barbara passed out the School Report Cards they had prepared. Harvey noted the Committee needed to hear the final figures on last year's budget.

Mr. Connor noted they had just started for this year. They will have the final numbers for last year in November.

Mr. Connor noted a surplus to the Town of \$98,351.00 from last year. Barbara discussed repaired completed to the school facility and new math books purchased.

Virginia asked why there was so much remaining revenue. Mr. Connor noted there were less high school students and savings in special education costs.

Barbara noted the school will be receiving some stimulus funds also. Mr. Connor noted it would be approximately \$100,000.00 for 2009/2010. The money will be used for a central speaker sound system for special education students in 24 classrooms and white boards to connect to computers for students. He noted it could not be used to pay salaries unless a new position is created. Mr. Connor discussed how the white boards were used.

Virginia asked if co-curricular was still pay to play, Barbara said no. Virginia asked about the custodial lines. Mr. Connor noted last year they weren't to 2 part-time people, changing to one full-time position in July.

Marylou asked if they had any thoughts of a high school bus. Barbara noted not enough students will ride the bus.

Joanne asked if there was a way to designate the line they have no control over, Barbara indicated they did that last year.

Harvey asked about the capital funds. Barbara noted one contains \$167,000 and the others are surplus trust funds that money is transferred into for building repairs. Mr. Connor noted other districts have a trust fund for special education if a new student moves into the district during the year.

Virginia asked if the non-certified staff was in a union. Barbara noted they are in the first year of a four year contract. The certified staff is in negotiations now.

The Report Card was reviewed. Carol noted enrollment appears to be down, Mr. Connor indicated there are 448 students enrolled for the 2009/2010 school year. Carol asked for a prediction for next year, Mr. Connor expects a similar enrollment. Brad asked the high school enrollment; Barbara said it is higher with the new law students have to stay in school until they are 18.

Mr. Connor noted the State and Federal funds for Title 1 have been cut back. The NECAS scores were reviewed. Mr. Connor noted the special education children did not make the bar with all sub groups having to make the bar or the whole school is considered not making the bar. The goal is to have all the children at level 3 or above.

Harvey noted some people generally are saying the school is teaching to the test, asking if it is possible. Mr. Connor noted it could happen, but they are teaching to the content the children are expected to learn for the grade level. Harvey noted he had read there is a huge variety of what is taught between the states, Mr. Connor agreed.

Harvey asked if the work being completed in Epsom shown in the achievement of students at Pembroke Academy. Barbara said yes, the majority of students note the social issues are their greatest challenge.

Carol noted she will be away from October 19th to November 20th.

Harvey reviewed the Budget Committee schedule for November and December as follows:

- November 12 – Selectmen to present the town Budget
- November 19 – Work Session (Brad will not be present for that session)
- December 3 – School Budget Presented and Work Session
- December 10 – Water District
- December 17 – Possible Work Session or Snow Date

January's meetings will be scheduled at a later date.

Harvey noted the meetings will begin at 7:00 P.M. and if people are going to be absent to please let him know.

Joanne requested if members have questions for various departments to e-mail her and she will obtain the answers.

It was noted the Committee would like to have the Department Heads available when their budgets are discussed.

The flyer put out last year was discussed with Harvey asking Joanne if the Board of Selectmen would fund the flyer this year. Discussion ensued if tax dollars should pay for the flyer.

Marylou reviewed the Trust Fund balances as of August 31st. Carol asked how much of the Lillian Morrison Trusts were principal or interest. Marylou will obtain for the next meeting.

Joanne 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 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Bosiak
Recording Secretary