

TOWN OF EPSOM

BUDGET COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 2, 2010

Present: Marylou LaFleur-Keane, Chairman; Joyce Heck, Vice-Chairman; Brad Keyes; Kevin Reeves; Penny Graham; Bob Sawyer; Keith Cota, Selectmen's Representative; Virginia Drew; Mike Wiggett; David Fiorentino

Not In Attendance: Carol McGuire; Mona McGraw

Other Attendees: Nancy Wheeler; Cheryl Arvanitis; Don Harty; Carole Brown; Mary Frambach; Val Long; Bob Payne; Nancy Claris; Cec Curran; Glen Horner

Marylou opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Review Minutes of November 18, 2010

The minutes of November 18th were reviewed and amended.

Keith motioned to accept the minutes of November 18, 2010 as amended, Kevin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Nancy Wheeler gave Committee members a budget comparison from 2004 to November 2010 and a revenue comparison for 2009 and 2010 to November 30th of each year. Nancy reviewed the revenue comparison information.

Library

Cheryl Arvanitis presented the Library Budget. The health insurance and retirement figures are not correct figures on the sheet Cheryl gave to Committee members, with health insurance being \$7,299.99 (Line 29) and retirement being \$3,732.00 (Line 33).

Due to increased usage the book and video lines have been increased. The total Maintenance lines were increased by \$350.00.

The salaries include a 3% increase, being a \$2,352.00 increase for those lines.

Program costs have increased due to the attendance.

The total increase is \$7,026.00 for the entire Library Budget.

Kevin asked about the water, Cheryl noted the issues have been dealt with; the water is now safe to drink.

Budget Discussion

Virginia noted that we may have to cut some items to sell the budget to the public. Bob stated that the problem is that people do not attend the meetings but go to the polls and vote no. Information has to be given to the voters.

Discussion ensued regarding the year the budget passed; a flyer was created by the Friends of the Budget Committee and mailed as an insert in the Suncook valley Sun.

Virginia suggested we utilize newspapers, by putting the information in the Sun and Banner.

Virginia volunteered to do a letter for the newspapers.

Discussion occurred regarding the Budget Committee recommending/not recommending the budget if revisions are made at the deliberative session.

Marylou noted the proposed agendas for the remaining meetings. Review of Warrant Articles will occur on December 30th.

Health Administration

Cec Curran, Health Officer, reviewed the Health Administration budget. Keith asked Cec to give an overview of his duties. Cec noted in Epsom he inspects restaurants. The Town uses State regulations (HEP) for the inspections. The State is looking to adopt FEA Codes. Cec also inspects day cares and foster homes. Septic systems can be a problem that Cec must work with. Every service station selling food has to be inspected. Keith noted with inspections if there is a violation Cec must return until the violation is corrected. Penny asked if Cec inspected the nursing home, he noted the State does that inspection. Cec noted there are 16 self-inspecting towns in the State; Epsom is one of these towns.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Glen Horner reviewed the Zoning Board of Adjustment budget. The ZBA budget is based on cases; with the budget for 2011 based on 14 cases. Approximately 85% of the budget is provided by the applicants. There were 8 cases in 2009 and 6 cases in 2010. Bob had attended some meetings, and asked about the training for the positions. Glen noted there is some subjectivity in ZBA decisions; regulations, etc. are used to determine a decision. Keith asked the number of cases that were appealed to courts since Glen became Chairman. Glen noted one case was appealed to the courts with the court ruling in favor of the ZBA's decision.

Kevin noted the budget presented to them is up 2.7%. The default budget may be close to this amount.

Bob is impressed with the quality of public service and voluntarism to the Town.

Old Business/New Business

There was no Old/New Business.

Mike motioned to adjourn, Virginia seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Marylou adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Bosiak
Recording Secretary