

TOWN OF EPSOM
BUDGET COMMITTEE
JANUARY 14, 2021

Present: Marylou LaFleur-Keane, Chairman; Joni Kitson, Vice Chairman; Gary Kitson, Water District Representative; Virginia Drew, Selectmen's Representative; Meadow Wysocki; Joy Sheehan; Penny Graham; Mary Frambach; Joyce Heck; Len Gilman; Brian O'Sullivan, School Board Representative

Virtual: Linda Hodgdon

Not in Attendance:

Other Attendees: Patrick Connors; Michael Wiggett; Karen Guercia; Deb Sullivan; Cheryl Gilpatrick

Virtual: Pat Curley; Alison Parodi - Bieling

Marylou opened the meeting at 6:32 PM.

Marylou read the statement for Emergency Order 12 as to how the virtual meeting is being conducted.

Marylou took a roll call introduction of the Committee Members and other attendees.

Epsom School District

Marylou opened the public hearing for the Epsom School District Warrant Articles. She noted Article 1 would be done last.

School Warrant Articles

Warrant Article 2: Shall the Epsom School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to be added to the Special Education Trust Fund previously established, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2021 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021? NO AMOUNT TO BE RAISED FROM TAXATION.

*School Board Recommends Approval
Budget Committee does or does not Recommends _____*

[Estimated tax impact per thousand \$.00]

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 2.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 2 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 2 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

Warrant Article 3: Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to be added to the Building Maintenance and Repair Trust Fund previously established, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2021 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021. NO AMOUNT TO BE RAISED FROM TAXATION.

School Board Recommends Approval
Budget Committee does or does not Recommends _____

[Estimated tax impact per thousand \$.00]

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 3.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 3 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 3 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

Warrant Article 1: Shall the Epsom School District vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, herein, totaling \$12,276,388? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$12,223,585 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Epsom School District, or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

School Board Recommends Approval

Budget Committee Recommends _____

If passed, the new estimated tax rate will be \$18.64 [per thousand], which will result in a (\$3.22) increase over the previous year tax rate.

[Note: Warrant Article # 1 (operating budget article) does not include separate Warrant Articles.]

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 1.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 1 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 1 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

Marylou closed the public hearing for the Epsom School District.

Epsom Village District

Marylou opened the public hearing for the Epsom Water District. She noted they have only one Warrant Article to be voted on.

Article 5: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate \$217,313 for the 2021 operating budget.

Commissioners Recommend/Budget Committee Recommends

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 5.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 5 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 5 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

Marylou closed the public hearing for the Epsom Village District.

Town Warrant Articles

Marylou opened the public hearing for the Town Warrant articles noting Article 1 would be voted on last.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the Town vote to establish a contingency fund for the 2021 year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) from the Unassigned Fund Balance to go into the fund? Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. Majority vote required. This Article and its appropriation are in addition to the operating budget.

No tax impact.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 - 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 2.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 2 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 2 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight hundred dollars (\$800) to be added to the previously established Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, with said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance, which is equivalent to the total amount of cemetery plot sales for 2020? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

No tax impact.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 - 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 3.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 3 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 3 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the potential future expansion of the public water system? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

Estimated tax impact is \$.04 per thousand

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 - 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 4.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 4 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 4 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added into the Capital Reserve Fund previously established for a future Town Office with said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

No tax impact

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 - 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 5.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 5 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 5 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the previously established Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance of Historic Town-Owned Buildings with said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

No tax impact

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 - 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 6.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 6 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 6 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the previously established Government Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund with said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

No tax impact

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 - 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 7.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 7 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 7 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of reconstruction and improvements to town roads? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

Estimated tax impact is \$.30 per thousand

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 - 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 8.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 8 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 8 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of purchasing motorized vehicles and equipment for the Highway Department? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

Estimated tax impact is \$.02 per thousand

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 - 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 9.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 9 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 9 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of bridge replacement and repair? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

Estimated tax impact is \$.05 per thousand

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 - 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 10.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 10 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 10 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand six hundred dollars (\$25,600) for the purpose of purchasing a Heart Monitor/ Defibrillator for the Fire Department, and further authorize the withdrawal of the same amount of twenty-five thousand six hundred (\$25,600) from the Fire and Rescue Apparatus Fund for that purpose? Majority vote required. This is a special Warrant Article and is in addition to the operating budget.

No tax impact

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 11.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 11 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 11 written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000) for the purpose of purchasing a Portable Ventilator for the Fire Department, and further authorize the withdrawal of same amount of seventeen thousand (\$17,000) from the Fire and Rescue Apparatus Fund for that purpose? Majority vote required. This is a special Warrant Article and is in addition to the operating budget.

No tax impact

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 - 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 12.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 12 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 12 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) for the purpose of purchasing an Electric Hoist for the Hose Tower for the Fire Department, and further authorize the withdrawal of the same amount six thousand (\$6,000) from the Fire Apparatus Fund for that purpose? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and is in addition to the operating budget.

No tax impact

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 - 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 13.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 13 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 13 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) for the purpose of purchasing a Forestry Truck for the Fire Department, and further authorize the withdrawal of the same amount of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) from the Fire and Rescue Apparatus Fund for that purpose? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and is in addition to the operating budget.

No tax impact

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 - 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 14.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 14 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 14 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) to be used by the Northwood Lake Watershed Association to control Milfoil in Northwood Lake? Majority vote required. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

Estimated tax impact is \$.01 per thousand

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 - 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 15.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

Penny asked why this article did not say it was a Special Warrant Article. Virginia noted that this Article is going into or coming out of a Capital Reserve Fund. Gary asked if the Selectmen had heard from the association. Virginia noted that they did and had received a detailed report on what has been completed and what is planned for the future.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 15 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 15 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

Virginia noted there would be an Article 16 but it did not include any monetary funds.

ARTICLE 1: Shall the Town of Epsom raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$ 3,552,329. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,531,446 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Epsom or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

The operating budget is estimated to have a tax rate of \$3.83, .12 cents less than the 2020 Tax rate. The default budget is estimated to have a tax rate of \$3.79, .16 cents less than the 2020 Tax rate.

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 1.

Marylou asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

Len was reading the operating budget has a tax rate of \$3.83, with the budget being .12 less than the 2020 budget. He noted the default budget has a tax rate of \$3.79 being .16 cents less than the 2020 Tax rate. Len noted that the Article indicates the default budget is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Epsom. It was discussed the tax rate is not included in this article for the additional Warrant Articles.

Deb noted the language has been reviewed and amended by DRA

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 1 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 1 as written, Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

Joni asked if the Selectmen had voted on Article 1; Virginia indicated they had, but had to revote on the amended amount of the budget.

Meadow motioned to accept the Revenue Budget in the amount of \$1,780,770, Mary seconded the motion.

Marylou asked if there was discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Marylou asked for a vote.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

Marylou closed the public hearing on the Town Warrant Article.

Marylou noted that the Warrants will be available for signature on January 21 and 22, 2021 at the Town Office.

Minutes of January 12, 2021

The minutes of January 12, 2021 were reviewed and amended.

Meadow motioned to approve the minutes of January 12, 2021 as amended, Len

seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Virginia noted the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments will not be on the ballot this year.

Virginia thanked Marylou for the assisting with the extra conditions due to COVID. Marylou thanked everyone for following procedure.

Virginia discussed towns having a different fiscal year that begins July 1, with their meetings being held in May.

Joni thought this year worked very well with the department heads having reduced budgets. Virginia noted that the Selectmen had asked the department heads to have a reasonable budget.

Meadow motioned to adjourn; Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed. Marylou adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Bosiak
Recording Secretary