

Approved Marylou LaFleur Keane

TOWN OF EPSOM
BUDGET COMMITTEE
JANUARY 10, 2019

Present: Marylou LaFleur-Keane, Chairman; Joni Kitson, Vice Chairman; Gary Kitson, Water District Representative; Len Gilman; Joyce Heck; Virginia Drew, Selectmen's Representative; Ralph Weeks; David Fiorentino; Mary Frambach; Penny Graham; Bill Yeaton, School Board Representative

Not in Attendance: Tony Soltani

Other Attendees: Nancy Wheeler; Graeme Crowther; Cristinia Crowther; Michael Wiggett; Carol Zonk-Mailloux; Cheryl Gilpatrick; Susan Ahern; Sarah Ahern; Patrick Connors; Michael Shaw; Debbie Sargent; Geoff Lopresti; Jessica Emond; Richard Frambach; Jan Santosuosso; Kim Gillis; Celeste Decker; Meadow Wysocki; Rob Topik

Marylou opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Marylou noted the Town Deliberative Session is February 9 at 9:00 AM; the School Deliberative Session is February 5 at 6:30 PM with voting on March 12 from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Marylou reviewed the rules she would be using to conduct the meeting.

Epsom School District

Marylou opened the public hearing for the School District Warrant Articles.

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 amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes 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 \$11,888,679? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$11,841,718 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 _____ Approval

If passed, the new estimated tax rate will be \$20.41 [per thousand], which will result in

a \$1.50 increase over the previous year tax rate.

[Note: Warrant Article # 1 (operating budget article) does not include separate Warrant Article #2 and #5.]

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public.

Marylou asked if the school members present had comments. They had no comments. Marylou closed public comment for Article 1.

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

Joni asked if anyone on the committee had an issue with her voting as she is a school part time employee. No one did.

Virginia noted the difference between the budget and default budget is \$46,961.00. The default budget eliminates text books and digital licenses.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend School District Article 1; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes; 0 no.

Warrant Article 2: Shall the Epsom School District vote to approve the cost items set forth in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Epsom School Board and the Epsom Support Staff Association for the 2019/20 fiscal year which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year 2019/20	\$62,609
Year 2020/21	\$58,834
Year 2021/22	\$61,985

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$62,609 for the 2019/20 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels?

School Board Recommends Approval
Budget Committee _____ Approval

[Estimated tax impact of this article is \$0.15 per thousand]

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public.

Gary noted for the audience the increases were 3 % for the first year, 2.7% for the second year and 2.7% for the third year of the contract.

Marylou asked if the school members present had comments. They had no comments. Marylou closed public comment for Article 2.

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

Virginia applauds the School Board for their work and the paraprofessionals are very important to the school.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend School District Article 2; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes; 0 no.

Warrant Article 3: To see if 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, 2019 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2019? NO AMOUNT TO BE RAISED FROM TAXATION.

*School Board Recommends Approval
Budget Committee _____ Approval*

[Estimated tax impact per thousand \$.00]

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public.

Deb Sargent asked if the SAU applies for state dollars and how much does the town receive. If none, she asked why would the town want to appropriate funds to the account.

Mr. Connors noted he would have to defer to the SAU to get the figure the town receives. If there is money remaining in the Special Education account it would be added to the fund. It would not impact the tax rate. Bill noted that it is common to freeze the budget in October due to Special Education costs.

Mr. Warburton noted if there is a very large or unknown Special Education needs it would come from the fund.

Marylou asked if the school members present had comments. They had no comments. Marylou closed public comment for Article 3.

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

Virginia knew that there was money that was returned to the School District asking if it was that money. It was noted it is just allowing up to the \$40,000.00.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend School District Article 3; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes; 0 no.

Warrant Article 4: Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$25,000 (from surplus) to be added to the Building Maintenance and Repair Trust Fund previously established, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2019 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2019. NO AMOUNT TO BE RAISED FROM TAXATION.

School Board Recommends Approval
Budget Committee _____ Approval

[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 asked if the school members present had comments. They had no comments. 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 comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend School District Article 3; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes, 0 no.

Marylou noted in the school report on pages 20 – 22 all the trust fund balances are listed.

Warrant Article 5: Shall the Epsom School District vote to raise and appropriate \$175,319 to fund the expansion of the half day Kindergarten program to a full day program? [Majority vote required]

School Board Does Not Recommend Approval
Budget Committee _____ Approval

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public.

Graeme Crowther wanted to provide some of the numbers coming from Keno and how it impacts Full Day Kindergarten. He noted if there was Full Day Kindergarten the District would receive \$1,100.00 per Kindergarten student. He further discussed the figures and Senate Bill. If there is money remaining after this payout, it will be further given to schools.

Mr. Crowther noted the enrollment and how the cost is broken out via tax dollars. He understood Keno and the Governors support. If the voters do not vote for Full Day Kindergarten Epsom will not receive any of these dollars.

Carol Zink-Mailloux noted the money is important and hopes the town considers the academics, discussing the hours that would be spent on academics. She noted currently the teachers have to alter the programs to fit the half day kindergarten. Students do not participate in specials all year long. The half day does not make up the days if missed due to snow or Early Release Days. There are 7 Early Release Days scheduled for the 2018-19 year as well as 4 snow days so far.

Deb Sargent noted if the Epsom School District was required to offer kindergarten the parents would not be required to send their child to kindergarten. She does not support fun play and babysitting services.

Michael Shaw noted there is a citizens committee formed around this article. If anyone is interested where the extra time would go, they have been working with the teachers to develop an academic program. He is concerned that the School Board is not supporting this article.

Jessica Emmons noted she had aided in the current program and it has come a long way, she noted she keeps hearing there will never be a right time for this; she indicated it will be mandated by the State in a few years.

Kim Gillis discussed she had earned a degree in elementary education in 1986. There was no public kindergarten then. She does think it is needed.

She noted that is half of what happens with the brain occurs in the early years. Ms. Gillis would also like to see Epsom have Title 1.

Sarah Ahern noted she would piggy back on what people saying. The quality of what students would be receiving is better than what they would be getting from a babysitter or in front of the TV. She feels it is a good program and the children deserve it. How many of the children are we not going to let benefit from not having Full Day Kindergarten.

Meadow Wysocki noted this would bring more families to Epsom that will bring businesses.

Marylou asked if the school members present had comments. They had no comments. Marylou closed public comment for Article 5.

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

Ralph noted that he basically came from a family that is educated. He agrees with the basic concept. Feels the funds in the Warrant Article are not adequately included. Ralph discussed having adequate funds. It costs the town of Epsom over \$14,000.00 to educate one student per year. The School District is getting \$3,600.00 plus from the State. It costs over \$40,000.00 for a Special Education student. He does not see an allowance for additional Special Education students that could come in. He noted that 1% of the students at the school are in the Special Education program at over \$40,000.00 with the District being responsible from 3 years old to 21 years old. If the District has 2 additional students in Special Education the District is looking at an additional \$80,000.00 a year.

Virginia noted the District would can get Special Education students that cost over \$80,000.00 a year. She has 3 children she paid to send to Kindergarten. Virginia feels early education is a benefit. A full day program will be a benefit. What teachers do in the 3-hour time currently is marvelous. When looking at some of the schools where our children compete will help. It will become a mandate in the future.

Dave asked about the red sheet given to the committee members. It shows the monthly tax amount. Dave asked if he could pay his taxes monthly.

Marylou noted she was on the Full Day Kindergarten Committee and the Budget Committee. Every year the default budget goes up and over the years something is given up but if having an additional cost give the funds to grades 6 through 8. She noted the School just started a new math program that should have been started 3 years ago. She volunteered in the ½ day kindergarten and kids can't last a full day. Let's put money into what we have.

Virginia commented on not having a Spanish teacher; she knows they are having a hard time finding a teacher. Mr. Connors noted that could not find a teacher part-time. Marylou noted that High Schools expect the students to know Spanish 101.

Virginia hopes that people could support the operating budget.

Bill noted they have a support staff contract. He thinks someone is going to lose and if there is a default budget where would there be cuts. He receives calls from people who do not want pay to play sports, and the high school bussing.

Virginia hopes people will look at the articles; it should not be an either or.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend School District Article 5; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion failed by a vote of 2 yes, 9 no.

Marylou closed the School District Public Hearing.

The Committee took a 5 minutes break.

EPSOM VILLAGE DISTRICT

Marylou opened the public hearing for the Epsom Village District.

Article 6: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate \$206,257 for the 2019 operating budget. Commissioners Recommend

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public.

Marylou closed the public comment for Article 6.

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

Gary noted the Water District raises their money through the water fees. The budget was reduced by \$600.00 from last year.

Virginia noted they have 3 commissioners; she verified they compute costs and then charge by water usage. The rehabilitation of the tank was discussed with it being noted the tank was installed in 1957. The company that has the service agreement knowns was needs to be done to the tank.

The new connections on the west side of the river were discussed. It was noted the owners would obtain water from the District, but would not be part of the District. If they want to become part of District the existing members would have to vote to expand the District.

The District does not receive any State or Town funds.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend the Epsom Village District Article 6; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes; 0 no.

Article 7: To raise and appropriate four thousand dollars (\$4,000) to be added to the Water System Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund with said funds to come from user fees. Commissioners Recommend

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public.

Carol Zink-Mailloux asked if the entire Town votes on these Warrant Articles. Gary noted no, but they were required to be a part of a Budget Committee.

There being no further questions or concerns from the public Marylou closed the public comment for Article 7.

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

Marylou noted that the \$4,000.00 would go into the Capital Reserve Fund that would have \$122,225.00 as of December 31, 2018.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend the Epsom Village District Article 6; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes; 0 no.

Town Warrant Articles

Marylou opened the public hearing for the Town Warrant Articles.

Marylou indicated that Article 1 would be discussed last.

Article 2: Shall the Town vote to establish a contingency fund for the 2019 year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) from the Unassigned Fund Balance to go into the fund? No amount to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. Majority vote required. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

No tax impacts.

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 asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 2; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes; 0 no.

Article 3: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of December 31, 2018, which is equivalent to the total amount of cemetery plot sales for 2018, to be added to the previously established Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund? No amount to be raised from taxation. Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

No tax impacts.

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 asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 3; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes; 0 no.

Article 4: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00), 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.

No tax impacts.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public.

Deb Sargent asked if there has been any consideration for Epsom tax payers to have use of Northwood's beaches on Northwood Lake.

Virginia noted Northwood does not allow Epsom residents to use the beaches. She noted this money goes to the Watershed Association, not the Town of Northwood. The Watershed Association would like to allow Epsom residents to use the beaches. Money appropriated is determined by the area of the lake in Epsom. Len noted there is not enough funds to fight the milfoil that there should be more.

Deb asked about having passes to the beaches; Virginia reiterated Northwood would not give permission for Epsom residents to use the beaches.

Carol Zink-Mailloux noted the watershed is more than just the lake.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public.

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

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 4; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 9 yes; 2 no.

Article 5: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000,00) to be deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of 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 \$.03 per thousand

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public.

Carol Zink-Mailloux asked how much money was in the Capital Reserve Fund; she noted the Town keeps putting money into a fund that will never receive a million dollars.

Gary discussed that potable water was being expanded to areas contaminated around the traffic circle. This money is for a study to do another well; the study will cost a couple of hundred thousand.

Nancy Wheeler discussed the Village District and the wells are on the east side of the river. The expansion is based on a study of the contamination of wells. She noted businesses have to pay something to connect if their wells are not contaminated. Wells contaminated will be connected by the grant from the Exxon-Mobil settlement.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public.

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

Dave is not in favor of this article. Gary asked why as by extending the water lines could be beneficial to bringing in businesses; sewer is the big thing and businesses look for it.

Dave does not think water will bring in businesses. The nursing home looked into but did not like the cost of connecting to the expanded lines.

Len noted that water lines are going to be put on the other side of the circle. He does not want to see later that the District cannot produce enough water. He sees this as an insurance so are not to create issues.

Gary noted the District has 2 wells with the State telling them they have to produce a certain capacity of water. In the future, they may have to have another well.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 5; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 10 yes; 1 no.

Article 6: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) to be deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund previously established for a future Town Office? Majority vote required. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

Estimated tax impact is \$.06 per thousand

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public.

Deb Sargent asked amount in account; \$51,000.00.

Carol Zink-Mailloux believes in owning, not renting. She noted they had no idea when this might happen.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public.

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

Virginia noted this was an initiative a previous selectman started. It was a way to start something so it would not be such a huge hit when a structure was constructed.

Len noted there was \$51,029 in account asking who makes the decision to spend. It is the Board of Selectmen; Len does not believe he would want three people to tell me what want to do. This is supposed to be for a study and should be a vote of the people.

Virginia noted the purpose was to outfit and acquire property.

The original Warrant Article was reviewed. It was discussed that the Selectmen were appointed to spend.

Marylou noted that it would have to come to the voters as there never will be enough funds in the Capital Reserve Fund to construct a building.

Gary would like to see it changed to be spent by the voters. Virginia noted this is how the fund was established. Gary discussed there could be a change in the wording. Len noted that it has only been funded once. Penny thought the original intent was to bring things to the voters.

Penny noted she asked the Selectmen last year being told would they would ask the people first. Gary discussed changing the wording next year.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 6; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion failed by a vote of 3 yes; 8 no.

Article 7: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000.00) to purchase the necessary equipment and one (1) year of support services to have the capability of broadcasting board and committee meetings to the public? Subsequent year's support fees would be included in the annual operation budget. Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

Estimated tax impact is \$.03 per thousand

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public.

Carol Zink-Mailloux lived in Dover and everything broadcast. She noted it was a good thing for folks that could not make it to evening meetings. Everyone should be able to see what is going on.

Deb Sargent supports the Article indicating the town uses Facebook to get information; it would be nice to see what is going on.

Carol Zink-Mailloux noted minutes were not verbatim and people would be shocked to see what is really going on.

Rob Topik stated he used to tape all the meetings.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public.

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

Virginia noted this was an issue brought forward by residents who bought in various options. This is for the initial costs and there will be further costs in future years. She noted storage costs are a concern.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 7; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 7 yes; 4 no.

Article 8: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$52,500.00) from the Unassigned Fund Balance for that purpose? This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI, and will not lapse until the update is completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner. Majority vote required. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

No tax impacts

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public.

Deb Sargent asked to have it explained why it was important to have this completed.

Virginia noted it makes our mapping match with overlays. It is something that is recommended; the Town needs to update its mapping.

Cheryl Gilpatrick asked who does the mapping. Nancy noted Cartographic Associates, Inc.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public.

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

Joyce asked if residents could use the information; Nancy noted we provide our maps to them.

Ralph had a concern as technology changes by the minute if the Town does the mapping now it will be out of date in a year.

Len noted there was no tax impact as the money would come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 8; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 10 yes; 1 no.

Article 9: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-one thousand five hundred dollars (\$31,500.00) for the purpose of purchasing a LIFEPAK 15 V4 Heart Monitor/Defibrillator, and authorize the use of the same amount of thirty-one thousand five hundred dollars (\$31,500.00) from the Fire and Rescue Apparatus Fund for that purpose? No amount to be raised by taxation. Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

No tax impacts

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public.

Chief Yeaton asked if the amount could be amended to \$28,500.00 as they had a better value for the item they were replacing.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public.

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

Virginia motioned to amend Article 9 to the \$28,500.00 amount; Dave seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 9; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes; 0 no.

Article 10: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-two thousand dollars (\$32,000.00) for renovation of the front façade of the Fire Station to remove the second-floor deck and replace the second-floor windows and further authorize the use of thirty-two thousand dollars (\$32,000.00) from the Unassigned Fund Balance for that purpose? Majority vote required. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

No tax impacts

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 asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

Penny assumed the amount was an estimate and if all the money was not used it would not be spent.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 10; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 10 yes; 1 abstention.

Article 11: There presently exists an Ambulance Revolving Fund into which is deposited each year, \$12,000.00 of the revenue received from providing ambulance service. Are you in favor of increasing the amount deposited each year into this fund to \$16,000.00? This article is contingent on the passage of Article 12, and will be void if Article 12 does not pass. Majority vote required.

No tax impacts

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public.

Deb Sargent asked if there are dollars raised for this fund or where does the money come from. Nancy noted it comes from the fees received from ambulance users.

Stewart discussed this shows the increase in calls and the number of patients transported by the ambulance.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public.

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 comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 11; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes; 0 no.

Article 12: There presently exists a Fire and Rescue Apparatus Special Revenue Fund, established under the provisions of RSA 31:95-c, into which all revenue in

excess of \$12,000.00 is deposited each year, to be expended by Town vote on replacement and maintenance of fire and ambulance apparatus. Are you in favor of changing the amount of revenue deposited into the fund to the amount of revenue received each year in excess of \$16,000.00? 2/3 ballot vote required. This article is contingent on the passage of Article 11, and will be void if Article 11 does not pass.

No tax impacts

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 asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 12; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes; 0 no.

Article 13: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) 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 \$.35 per thousand

Recommended by the Selectmen 2 – 1

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public.

Meadow Wysocki asked if it is defined how the \$150,000.00 is spent. Virginia clarified if there is a plan; she noted the Road Agent has not presented any plans at this time.

Gary noted that the Road Agent can spend the money as he wants; he does not have to go to the voters or Selectmen.

Deb Sargent noted the Capital Reserve Funds are to save for bigger ticket items. She noted some roads have been done that are bigger items. Nancy noted that the funds can be spent for \$80,000.00 items not \$450,000.00 items. The intent is to complete bigger projects with the funds.

Meadow Wysocki asked if there is a committee that evaluates this or is it just the Road Agent; Gary indicated there is no committee.

Nancy explained a Capital Reserve Fund has an agent to expend then the agent can spend the funds without going to anyone else.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public.

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

Ralph verified where you have an agent to expend then no one else can raid the Capital Reserve Funds to spend for anything else. In the operating budget Selectmen can take money from lines for another line.

Marylou noted that the Trustees control the Capital Reserve Funds. A form to take the money out has to be completed and the trustees verify who can spend and require invoices for the monies. It was discussed there is internal control.

Virginia noted she voted to not recommend this Article. She is not against the trust fund, but this is a significant amount and with the amount of funds in the fund she thought it was adequate at this time.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 13; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion failed by a vote of 5 yes; 6 no.

Article 14: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) 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.

Cheryl Gilpatrick asked if there is itemized list of what motorized vehicles. Nancy noted it could be for a truck, backhoe or loader. She discussed this fund is to be spent by town vote; it would have to be a Warrant Article on the ballot to expend.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public.

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 comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 14; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 8 yes; 3 no.

Article 15: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) 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 \$.06 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 asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

Penny noted the amount in the fund is approximately \$110,000.00. She noted the Town could get bridge grants from the State.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 15; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes; 0 no.

Article 16: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred ninety thousand dollars (\$190,000.00) to purchase a new 6-wheel plow truck with equipment for the Highway Department to be used for summer and winter maintenance? Majority vote required. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

Estimated tax impact is \$.44 per thousand

Not Recommended by the Selectmen 0 – 3

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public.

Rob Topik asked why is this Article was different. Marylou explained the other article puts money in the Capital Reserve Fund and this Article is to buy a truck outright.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public.

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 comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 16; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion failed by a vote of 0 yes; 11 no.

Article 17: In the event that the above warrant article #16 does not pass, shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) to purchase a used 6-wheel plow truck with equipment for the Highway Department to be used for summer and winter maintenance? Majority vote required. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

Estimated tax impact is \$.14 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 asked if the Budget Committee Members had questions or concerns.

Gary noted he was not for this Article thinking it is less expensive to hire a truck when needed. He noted the Town has one truck two spreaders. Very expensive to repair equipment.

Len discussed a conversation he had with the Road Agent and suggested he do a Warrant Article. Len noted he voted no on Article 13 with \$63,000.00 in another article. He will vote yes for this Article.

Dave discussed in the sake for efficiency it is wise to vote for this Article. He noted a large truck could plow a road in one run rather than making two or more with a smaller truck.

Gary noted it is not more efficient to own trucks. He noted if required hire more larger trucks. We are voting on \$60,000.00 no piece of equipment listed. The Town bought a grader for \$4,000.00 and now have spent \$43,000.00 in repairs for it.

Len noted the Town had a big truck in past and the Road Agent got rid of the big truck.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 17; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 7 yes; 4 no.

Marylou reviewed the two petition articles.

The first supports the use of the Inventory of Taxable Property (Form PA 28):

Do you favor the use of the Inventory of Taxable Property (Form PA-28)? This form requires among other information the listing of all occupant's names and ages for all properties in Epsom and is subject and is subject to the penalty of perjury for false information and a fine of up to fifty dollars for not returning the completed form.

Marylou noted as there is no financial impact the Budget Committee does not vote on them. Gary clarified that you do not have to complete all the information; Nancy verified that you have to return to form to not be fined.

Ralph noted the Warrant Article indicated that the form needed to be completed.

Virginia noted the form has been used by the town for ZBA lawsuits and by the Welfare Department. Nancy did not know if the Warrant Article could be changed. She will ask DRA to see if the Selectmen could change it.

Virginia noted in the past the form was used and was helpful. Meadow Wysocki asked if the form was public information; Nancy noted some information would be redacted.

Cheryl Gilpatrick noted she works for a company that obtains the forms from towns and the information is public with nothing being redacted.

Gary noted that if you want to know anything public go on Facebook.

Deb Sargent asked if the Town would be putting those on the computer. Nancy discussed what information would be put on the computer.

The other article is a petition to see if the town would approve allowing the operation Keno games in the town:

By petition of 2% or more registered voters of this town, to see if the town would approve the following petitioned warrant article at the 2019 Town Meeting Ballot Vote. Petitioned Warrant Language, per Senate Bill 191 from the 2017 State of New Hampshire Legislative Session: "Shall we allow the operation of Keno games within the Town?

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 \$3,573,062? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$3,399,998, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RS 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

The operating budget is estimated to be a \$.33 to the 2018 Tax rate
The default budget is estimated to be a (\$.07) decrease from the 2018 Tax rate

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public.

Deb Sargent asked if Article 1 were to pass and all the other articles passed are, we looking at \$31.00 per thousand tax rate? It was discussed with it being noted the Town is looking at over a 10% increase with all the Warrant Articles.

Deb asked if the Selectmen took \$250,000.00 to offset the 2018 tax rate. It was noted that this is 2019 and at the time the tax rate is set the Selectmen will determine if they will use some of the Unassigned Fund Balance.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public.

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

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comments requesting a motion.

Dave motioned to recommend Article 1; Virginia seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 7 yes; 4 no.

Penny noted that last year at the deliberative session Article 1 was done first and it should be done last. Virginia will bring this up to the Moderator.

Revenues

Nancy reviewed the potential revenues for 2019.

Minutes of January 8, 2019

The minutes of January 8, 2019 were reviewed and amended.

Dave motioned to approve the minutes of January 8, 2019 as amended, Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

Dave motioned to adjourn, Virginia seconded the motion. The motion passed. Marylou adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Bosiak
Recording Secretary