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TOWN OF EPSOM
BUDGET COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 15, 2020

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

Not in Attendance:

Other Attendees: Cheryl Gilpatrick; Patrick Connors; Amber Wheeler; Deb Sullivan

Marylou opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Marylou had everyone introduce themselves.

School Report

Mr. Connors noted they started school in person on September 15 with Hybrid in August.

A rock wall was added to the gym.

Mr. Connors reviewed the information in the School Report Card.

He noted the items they have completed. He discussed the ALICE training and what to do if there is an intruder in the school. Mr. Connors discussed the STAR testing that is occurring now.

Mr. Connors noted the enrollment at both Epsom Central and at Pembroke Academy. There were no sports programs in the spring. They are doing intermural and cross country within the school.

The teacher salaries have reduced as there is newer staff.

Mr. Connors noted that most students are behind because they have not been in a classroom for several months.

Marylou asked about the students using the new Math program. Mr. Connors noted it does not show yet in the test scores.

Mr. Connors noted the Revenue for FY 19/20. Ms. Wheeler noted there was some unanticipated revenues. There were insurance and retirement reimbursements along with

additional unanticipated catastrophic aid and grants. The school received \$2,936.99 in Medicaid payments.

Ms. Wheeler noted the expenses with significant increases or decreases. There was less tuition for the High School.

Supplies and equipment included expenses for items for COVID learning. Mr. Connors noted the School Board paid for supplies students usually purchased and brought to the school.

Mr. Connors noted there was a room to isolate students if they are suspected of having COVID. It is vented separately from the rest of the building.

Mr. Connors noted if there is a COVID situation the School Board has prepared to close the school for a day to trace for close contact, etc.

Ms. Wheeler noted there was \$994,341.28 with funds to offset taxes of \$929,341.28 after the reserved warrant articles taken out.

Minutes of June 18, 2020

The minutes of were reviewed and amended.

Gary motioned to approve the minutes of June 18, 2020 as amended, Meadow seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Town

Virginia noted the Town has spent 73.5% of the budget. She noted they should have spent 77%. They are receiving money for COVID which is not in the budget.

Virginia noted the overage for retiree payouts. The training and conference lines were less due to the courses being virtual. Dental insurance was less than anticipated. Planning Board secretarial support line was over. Cemetery expenses was over due to tree removal.

Police Overtime is overbudget due to some COVID coverage. Some of those funds will be reimbursed by COVID funds. Fire Department overages are due to additional requirements.

The pump on the Pumper Truck is to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$23,000. Virginia noted some things are not paid out until the end of the year.

Snow removal is at half the normal costs with an easy spring. Meadow asked if the Highway Department acquired the vehicle it wanted; Virginia indicated yes. She noted overall the Highway Department is under budget.

Welfare Vendors is over due to a funeral the Town had to pay for. The Parks & Recreation budget will be under budget.

Library health and dental costs will be over but the Library will over that is their budget. Virginia noted there would be additional expenses for the election.

Virginia praised Deb for the work she has done considering the time at which she was hired.

Linda asked if there was an overage on bridge repair. Virginia noted that there was additional work with some of the funds coming from the bridge capital reserve fund.

Deb noted that there was \$25,000 in the budget for the bridge repairs with some of the overage funds coming from other lines and the remaining funds from the Bridge Capital Reserve Funds.

Virginia noted the amounts the town expected for COVID reimbursement funds but we did not receive all of the funds applied for.

Deb noted the Town received \$64,000 for municipal aid but they town only received approximately \$40,000 for COVID costs.

Gary noted under water on page. 13 is for hydrant rental.

Virginia noted in Emergency Management \$619 should be reimbursed for a temperature thermometer and a new laptop.

The repairs to the Center Hill Road bridge were discussed with Gary explaining the additional work that needed to be completed.

It was determined to have the Town budget presentation on November 17th with the 19th as a backup date.

Meeting dates were discussed with a tentative schedule set. It was discussed that the committee would like to hear from every department.

Gary motioned to adjourn; Meadow seconded the motion. The motion passed. Marylou adjourned the meeting at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Bosiak
Recording Secretary