

TOWN OF EPSOM
BUDGET COMMITTEE
JUNE 22, 2023

Attendees: Marylou Keane, Chairman; Joni Kitson, Vice Chairman; Gary Kitson, Water District Representative; Meadow Wysocki, Selectmen's Representative; Joyce Heck; Floyd Graham; Len Gilman; Linda Hodgdon; Nancy Wheeler

Not in Attendance: Penny Graham; Michael Muise, School Board Representative; Mary Frambach

Other Attendees:

Marylou opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Marylou noted that a chair and vice chair have to be elected.

Gary nominated Marylou as Chairman; Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Gary nominated Joni as Vice Chairman; Nancy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Minutes

The minutes of January 12, 2023 were reviewed and amended.

Joni motioned to approve the minutes of January 12, 2023, as amended; Linda seconded the motion. The motion passed with two abstentions.

Marylou reviewed the liaison list for the various departments.

TOWN BUDGET

Meadow reviewed the town budget noting areas of concern. The telephone costs were over do to moving to the new town office. Rentals and Leases has decreased as the town office is no longer paying rent.

Meadow noted that Jen Johnson has left town employment and Andrea Novotney has returned and is assuming the role of Selectmen's Recording Secretary.

Len asked about the computer installation. Meadow noted that the new lines were installed and then all the computers and printers had to be connected to the network.

Meadow discussed issues with the computers due to their age.

Linda asked if the town would be okay on Health and Dental Insurance. Those lines will be okay, but Meadow noted that they just received notice that the property insurance will have an increase before the end of the year.

Meadow noted that the Planning Board is over budget with legal fees and are trying to watch their overall budget. Floyd asked why they had an excess of legal fees. Meadow noted it was over the way they were checking on decisions being made.

Meadow noted that there are additional electrical costs due to the use of the lower level of the Meetinghouse. Use of electricity by the Food Pantry with the number of refrigerators and freezers it has was discussed. It is not a town entity.

The Police Department Overtime Line has been overspent. The wages line is not being spent due to vacancies. They have prospective new officers. Joni asked if the Police Department has ordered a new vehicle. Meadow noted they have begun the process.

Floyd asked what was happening with the ambulance. Meadow noted it is back on the road. She also noted they have another Firefighter/EMT.

Joni asked why the Fire Department did not have money taken from the water line as they are paying their bill. Meadow will check into this.

The Highway Department was hit hard with long storms for snow removal. Nancy asked if the paving was about completed. It was thought there is one more road needing to be paved.

Welfare had a vehicle repair it paid for that was excessively high, but she is watching the bottom line.

Conservation is working on items. Repairing the roads, etc. and installing signs (no camping) at the Town Forest. Meadow noted there are three established camp sites. They were for the Boy Scouts, but people are using them. Meadow noted the sites would be disassembled.

Economic Development now has a committee and will be expending their funds.

The Town is at 46% with its budget and is where they should be for mid-June.

Linda asked about revenues. Marylou will ask for a revenue report after July 1.

SCHOOL BUDGET

Linda asked about the school budget not passing and the potential of holding a special

meeting. It was discussed that there was not enough time to redo the budget and hold a special meeting.

Meadow noted she has been attending School Board and SAU meetings. She discussed they needed to have audits completed, but the audit reports have not been completed.

Linda noted they had an audit firm that was small and could not complete the audit. Meadow noted she is seeing the School Board is asking for more information from the SAU.

It was discussed that the SAU noted the Town was only sending funds twice a month to pay the bills. The new treasurer is now sending funds once a month.

Gary discussed the school audits and issues with the funds from the SAU.

Len noted that after they present their budgets there is always something that has been a significant change.

Floyd noted that they moved the money around. Len noted that the line items were increased. Joni noted that a lot of it has to be with the SAU.

Meadow noted that at the last meeting they spent funds that were not included in the budget. One item was the integration of the radios and cameras with the Police, Fire and School in the case of an emergency.

The issues were discussed.

Floyd asked why the driveway loop from the Library and Town Offices was discontinued. Meadow noted that it was determined due to various factors with the slope and drainage.

Floyd asked about the lights being replaced at the circle. Meadow noted the State does not want to replace the lights. The issues were discussed. Meadow noted they are having discussions with the State.

Marylou noted the next meeting will be on September 21st.

Linda asked for revenues for the next meeting.

Floyd motioned to adjourn; Gary seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Marylou adjourned the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully,

Betsy Bosiak

Recording Secretary