

TOWN OF EPSOM

BUDGET COMMITTEE

January 10, 2008

Present: Harvey Harkness, Chairman; Marylou Keane, Vice Chairman; Joanne Randall; Ed Nutter; Joyce Heck; Carole Brown; Larry Yeaton; Brad Keyes; Barbara Doughty; Karen Keeler; Steve Merrill

Excused: Don Harty

Other Attendees: Nancy Wheeler; Patrick Connor; Bob McKechnie; Stewart Yeaton; Barbara Clark; Gordon Ellis; Lisa weaver; Don weaver; Carol McGuire; Mary Frambach; Joni Kitson; peter Aubrey; Andrew Walton; Val Long; Nancy Claris; Rob Topik; Dick Frambach

Harvey opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Connor distributed five sheets of information for the school budget, revenues, etc. Harvey said Nancy Wheeler had prepared the town budget worksheet and updated revenues and Warrant Articles.

It was discussed the Committee would review the town information and then the school information. Larry asked if they needed to have the hearings open for a certain time period, being told they did not need to be.

**Larry made a motion to open the public hearing for the town budget and town Warrant Articles with Carole seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

Joanne thanked Nancy for preparing the town information. Joanne reviewed the town budget. She said the Fire and Police Departments only included 3.8% salary increases with other town employees having a 5% increase. There is a decrease in the Selectmen's stipend as the town is going from five to three Selectmen. The Police Department has an increase in its dispatch services and was moved into the administration line causing an increase there. The Fire Road Maintenance was moved from the Highway Department; to the Fire Department. The Architects and Engineering line was moved within the Highway Department sections.

Joyce said there were a number of places in the budget that the Selectmen increased what the Department Heads requested, asking why. Joanne replied that under general

discussion the Board felt the Department Heads had underestimated some lines with the Board finding a need to increase them.

Larry questioned if the Police Department salaries were increased only 3.8% why the Chief's salary showed a 5.18% increase, asking if this included the pay if sick time is not used. Nancy explained it was due to the Chief being able to receive three days pay for having the maximum number of sick hours and not using any sick leave this year.

Mary Frambach asked why the Highway Department's Architects and Engineering line showed no increase but went from \$14,550.00 to \$17,500.00. Joanne said there is an increase but due to the line moving an increase percentage does not show.

Carol McGuire asked why line 01-4312.4-450 (reconstruction of Highway) jumped from \$10.00 to \$250,000.00. Nancy explained that 2 or 3 years ago the amount in the line was reduced to \$10.00 as it was thought the Capital Reserve Funds would be used for that item. With the town having voted for default budgets that line has remained at \$10.00.

Gordon Ellis said the \$250,000.00 was convoluted as it should be \$650,000.00. He is trying for State aid for Griffin Road. Projects need to be done on Drolet, New Orchard, Locke's Hill and North Roads. He said the Griffin Road money may have to come from the budget. He said of the \$671,000.00 for the Center Hill Road Bridges FEMA is paying 75%, the State 80% or the remaining 25% and the town 20% of the remaining 25%. Gordon is trying for the same on Griffin Road.

Harvey asked if the matching funds were in the budget being told they were. Gordon said if the town receives the matching funds projects would also be done on North Pembroke Road and Old Turnpike Road.

Stewart Yeaton said if the town goes to a default budget the town would be \$430,000.00 short, asking if the Budget Committee has looked at or thought of looking at lines for the default budget. He said the Fire Department is only looking at a 7.5% increase with other departments looking for much more.

Nancy said the default budget by RSA is the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen. She said it is to be last year's budget plus commitments made.

Chief Yeaton asked who decides if something is a contract – DRA or the Selectmen. Nancy said the Selectmen.

Larry asked how much money was in Capital Reserve for the roads with Nancy replying \$344,000.00. She said there is to be no more to be spent this year from that fund.

Bob McKechnie asked what Other Professional Services was under Waste Disposal, being told the BCEP costs.

The Town Warrant Articles were reviewed. Nancy reminded the Committee there are revenues to offset some of the operating the budget. Nancy said there are no additional revenues to offset the Warrant Articles. Harvey discussed the revenue sheet showing revenues of \$1,517,116.00 which are applied to the setting of the tax rate.

Harvey read each Warrant Article.

Larry said if Article 3 passes it sounds like it would be in the default budget only. Nancy said they were trying to be sure everyone understood it would become part of the default budget if the Article passes.

Larry discussed Article 4 sounds like the employees would be receiving an increase of \$8,000.00 annually. He said the Budget Committee talked about changing the wording. Joanne said the Selectmen discussed the wording and decided to not change it. Carol McGuire asked what the percentage of increase was with no one having computed that percentage.

Bob McKechnie said he noticed as he was rereading the Article he thought it leaned more towards the Police Department, thinking they should add the increase is between the Police and Fire Departments. Joanne replied it does say all full time Police and Fire Department personnel. She is not sure adding wording would make it more or less clear. Nancy said that was discussion for the deliberative session with Carole agreeing.

Joyce asked, regarding Article 5, when the current lease for the town offices expires, being June 2010. Harvey asked the cost of the annual rent with discussion it was determined the annual rent was \$23,100.00.

Carole asked if the town would get State aid for bridges when Article 7 was read. Larry said this Article was to put away money for the matching funds. He said the State would pay 80% of the costs. Ed asked how much was in the funds now, Nancy replied \$71,602.00. This includes the \$15,000.00 voted in 2007.

When Article 10 was read Larry wanted the public to know that the Budget Committee had asked the Selectmen to drop Article 9 as a temporary shed (which would be a tent). They were asked to increase the amount in Article 10 to \$20,000.00. Larry did not feel it made sense to spend money for asphalt or concrete to be torn up. The town should wait to construct a permanent shed.

Lisa Weaver asked for comments as to other duties the planner requested in Article 14 would perform. Betsy said meet with developers, assist with revisions in regulations, zoning changes and other duties as required. Betsy said the position would be about 10 hours a week with the cost to be approximately \$20.00 an hour with social security, Medicare, etc. as required.

In regards to Article 15, Lisa asked if some of the cable funds could be used for this and if the town had a cable master. Joanne said the \$18,000.00 is the maximum amount and the town does have other amounts that could be applied for.

Carole asked the number of people in town who get cable. Barbara said all but about 5 miles of roads has cable available. Ed said that does not tell the number of subscribers. Ed asked the cost each year. Joanne said the cost is for installation and purchase of equipment. Joyce reiterated questioning if there were fees to broadcast and if there was a way to get the number of subscribers. Joni said Metrocast may not give the information with Joyce saying just an aggregate number.

Carol McGuire asked who would pay the yearly electric bill for Article 16 with Harvey replying the town. Bob M. said there are two ways the meter could be set up – with a \$9.00 a month fee or when the meter is turned on for \$18.00 a month.

In response to Article 17 Harvey said the Library has a Webmaster with Larry asking if the town would use the same person. Joanne said that has not been discussed.

Ed asked how Article 19 got on with Nancy saying it was a petition Article with 25 signatures of registered voters.

Andrew Walton asked if article 20 would be binding if it passes with Harvey not knowing. Nancy said Town Counsel would be present at the deliberative session and could be asked then.

Harvey said Article 21 was another policy Article. Chief Yeaton said there are not many companies that repair fire trucks. He was concerned about having to obtain estimates if this Article passes. Joanne said the Selectmen have discussed a bid policy as there are many different areas to be looked at. Discussion ensued with Harvey saying the LGC has a set of bid processes.

Joanne said there are meetings of area towns when concerns are discussed. She asked Bob M. to address this Article. She said it is something the Selectmen are working on and are moving in that direction.

Joyce asked if the Selectmen discussed Article 9 and if they left it in rather than waiting for another year. Joanne said the general feeling of the Selectmen was there was a great deal of work put into this and to leave it on the ballot. Nancy said Article 9 does not say temporary as the original wording did. She said it is a Special Warrant Article and if the money was raised to buy land or if land became available the Selectmen could build something or carry the money over another year.

Ed said on Article 21 \$2,000.00 is not very much money and if the road Agent had a special problem it could be a problem for him. Bob M. said this should be discussed at the deliberative session.

Nancy said there was one more petition Article to change from three to five Selectmen. Larry asked when it came in with Barbara saying on Monday. Nancy said this Article has to have its own public hearing by the Selectmen and needs to be handled separately.

Harvey said the budget increase is \$524,421.00 with the largest part being 70% for road improvements and reconstruction. Larry said if all the Warrant Articles pass the tax increase would be \$2.46/per thousand.

**Larry made a motion to close the public hearing for the town budget and Warrant Articles with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Larry made a motion to open the public hearing on the school budget and Warrant Articles with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **School Budget**

Barbara Doughty said there have been some changes since the last budget was presented to the Committee.

There have been changes to Special Education lines. Mr. Connor said there are two adjustments with a new student at Pembroke Academy and another student having an out of district placement for a \$59,000.00 increase.

The school budget was reviewed. Lisa said she would like to commend and thank the School board for the budget. Barbara said it was due to Mr. Connor and the SAU.

Joanne left the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Barbara read the school Warrant Articles.

Larry asked what the projected increase was for Article 3 with Barbara saying 3.8%.

Larry asked if Article 4 included only one bus, being told it was. He asked what would happen if they have more students than one bus could hold. Peter Aubrey said they would have to find a way to pay for another bus. It was discussed this was a close vote last year.

Larry asked how many students rode the bus when they had it. Gordon said the bus was full in the morning but not as many students in the afternoon. He said it was mostly freshman and sophomores.

Harvey asked if Article 5 would complete the asbestos removal, being told it would.

**Larry made a motion to close the public hearing for the school budget and Warrant Articles with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Larry made a motion to open the public hearing for the Water District with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

Steve said there were no changes from the last time the budget was presented.

Barbara discussed they had included FEMA money in the budget feeling it should not be part of the budget. Nancy said the Water District is different from the town with discussion only people who vote for this budget are the people in the Water District. Barbara was concerned if something goes wrong they could not expend this money and would have to return it. Nancy said the Water Commissioners may not be able to expend the money without a district vote. She said the money did not come to the town, but to the District. Larry said the District may want to check on this with their lawyer. Steve will check on it.

**Larry made a motion to close the public hearing on the Water District budget with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Larry made a motion to affirm the Committee's previous vote to recommend the town budget with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion.**

Brad said he missed a meeting where they had discussed the budget, but he felt the end increase of 22% was unreasonable, asking if there was any way to adjust it. Larry said they could do it at the deliberative session.

Brad said the roads are a concern this year and they should concentrate on one department a year. Discussion ensued. Brad felt they should start by looking at the big picture and then go line by line.

Harvey said to reduce the budget the Committee would have to rescind its previous vote. Marylou suggested making a motion to decrease the bottom line and then letting the

Selectmen choose where to reduce the budget. Nancy said if they did this probably the road lines would be cut.

Larry said a good case to reduce was the town has a good police cruiser with only 67,000 miles and the department would not wait to purchase another cruiser. Larry said he would rather have someone come to the deliberative session with line items to cut and let the deliberative session vote. The Budget committee could vote after that. Harvey said it is not too late if the majority wants to change the previous vote.

Bob M. said they are looking to do something after closing the public hearing.

Harvey said Larry is suggesting those of us wishing to see the budget reduced to do it at the deliberative session, that there is a 70% increase in the Highway budget.

Discussion occurred as to where cuts could occur. Many members felt the town would have a default budget.

Mary said the Budget Committee has always voted after the public hearing is done. She thought changes were made based upon the input of the public.

Joyce withdrew her second of the motion with Larry withdrawing the motion.

It was determined to vote to recommend or not recommend each Warrant Article as presented.

### **Town Warrant Articles**

**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 \$2,867,220.00? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$2,469,281.00, 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 RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Recommended by the Selectmen)**

**Approval of the proposed Town operating budget will result in a projected increase of \$1.15 per thousand over the 2007 operating budget. The default budget will result in a projected increase of \$ .28 per thousand.**

**Larry made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 1 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion.**

Nancy said the Budget Committee needed to present a budget at the deliberative session. It is the budget the Budget Committee presented at the public hearing.

**There being no further discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 9 yeses and 1 abstention.**

**ARTICLE 2: In the event that Article 1, the Operating Budget, fails and the Town receives a default budget, shall the Town of Epsom raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand two hundred sixty-four dollars (\$15,264.00) to pay the third annual payment of the four year lease/purchase agreement for the Highway F550 truck? Majority vote required; this appropriate is in addition to the default operating budget. (Recommended by the Selectmen)**

**Estimated tax increase \$ .03 per thousand**

**Larry made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 2 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 9 yeses and 1 abstention.**

**ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town of Epsom raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-seven thousand and fifty four dollars (\$57,054.00) to pay six (6) months' salary and benefits, and the cost of uniforms and equipment, for one (1) additional full-time police officer and one (1) additional full-time firefighter/paramedic? Four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) would come from the Police Department part time line of the approved operating budget and fifty-two thousand five hundred fifty-four (\$52,554.00) would be raised through taxes. Majority vote required; this appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Recommended by the Selectmen)**

**Estimated tax increase \$ .12 per thousand**

**Marylou made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 3 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion failed with 4 yeses, 5 nos and 1 abstention.**

**ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town of Epsom raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-two thousand eight hundred and fifteen dollars (\$82,815.00), for an annual pay increase for all full-time fire and police personnel totaling \$72,000.00 plus \$10,815.00 for social security, Medicare and retirement? If this article passes it would become part**

**of future operating default budgets. The increase would be as follows: Police Chief and two (2) supervisors would receive eight thousand dollars (\$8,000.00) each and eight (8) full-time employees would receive six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) each. Majority vote required; this appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Recommended by the Selectmen)**

**Estimated tax increase \$ .16 per thousand**

**Marylou made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 4 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion.**

Larry thought the increase was too much. Ed said the Article does sound like it could be every year.

**There being no further discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion failed with 9 nos and 1 abstention.**

**ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town of Epsom vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund per RSA 35:1 & 3, for the purpose of constructing, purchasing or renovating Town Offices and raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00) to be placed in this fund, and appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend this fund? Majority vote required; this is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Recommended by the Selectmen)**

**Estimated Tax increase \$ .16 per thousand**

**Larry made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 5 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 7 yeses, 2 nos and 1 abstention.**

**ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town of Epsom 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. (Recommended by the Selectmen)**

**Estimated tax increase \$ .33 per thousand**

**Larry made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 6 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 9 yeses and 1 abstention.**

**ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) 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. (Recommended by the Selectmen)**

**Estimated tax increase \$ .03 per thousand**

**Larry made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 7 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 9 yeses and 1 abstention.**

**ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town of Epsom raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of acquiring 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. (Recommended by the Selectmen)**

**Estimated tax increase \$ .03 per thousand**

**Larry made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 8 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 9 yeses and 1 abstention.**

**ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Epsom raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-one thousand dollars (\$71,000.00) to construct a salt and sand shed by raising the sum of thirty-nine thousand dollars (\$39,000.00) from general taxation? The sum of thirty-two thousand dollars (\$32,000.00) would be withdrawn from a previously established capital Reserve Fund for that purpose. Majority vote required; this is a special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Recommended by the Selectmen)**

**Estimated tax increase \$ .09 per thousand**

**Marylou made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 9 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion failed with 9 nos and 1 abstention.**

**ARTICLE 10: In the event that Article 9 does not pass, shall the Town of Epsom 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 erecting a salt and sand storage shed for the highway department? Majority vote required; this is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Recommended by the Selectmen)**

**Estimated tax increase \$ .02 per thousand**

**Larry made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 10 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 7 yeses, 2 nos and 1 abstention.**

**ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town of Epsom raise and appropriate the sum of sixty-three thousand dollars (\$63,000.00) to prepare and pave the section of New Orchard Road from house number 584 to the Pittsfield town line that was reclaimed in 2006? Majority vote required; this appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Recommended by the Selectmen)**

**Estimated tax increase \$ .14 per thousand**

**Larry made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 11 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 6 yeses, 3 nos and 1 abstention.**

**ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town of Epsom vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of seventy thousand three hundred ninety-eight dollars (\$70,398.00), payable over a term of four (4) years at a rate of seventeen thousand six hundred dollars (\$17,600.00) per year, to purchase the backhoe/loader currently being rented for the highway department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of seventeen thousand six hundred dollars (\$17,600.00) from the Capital Reserve Fund for Highway vehicles and equipment for that**

purpose? The lease does not contain an escape clause. If this article passes, the Highway Department rentals and leases line of the voted operating budget would be reduced by seventeen thousand six hundred dollars (\$17,600.00). 3/5<sup>th</sup> ballot vote required; this is a Special Warrant Article. (Recommended by the Selectmen)

Estimated tax increase \$ .00 per thousand

Marylou made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 12 with Joyce seconding the motion.

Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion failed with 8 nos and 2 abstentions.

**ARTICLE 13:** Shall the Town of Epsom establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing land for a Highway Department facility, and raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) to be placed in this fund, and appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend this fund? Majority vote required; this is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Recommended by the Selectmen)

Estimated tax increase \$ .11 per thousand

Larry made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 13 with Joyce seconding the motion.

Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 9 yeses and 1 abstention.

**ARTICLE 14:** Shall the Town of Epsom raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for the Planning Board to hire a planner to review applications to the Planning Board prior to consideration by the Board? Majority vote required; this is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Recommended by the Selectmen)

Estimated tax increase \$ .02 per thousand

Larry made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 14 with Joyce seconding the motion.

Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 9 yeses and 1 abstention.

**ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town of Epsom raise and appropriate the sum of eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000.00) to purchase and install equipment to record and transmit meetings held at the Town Offices? This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the equipment is installed or by December 31, 2011, whichever is sooner. Majority vote required; this is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Recommended by the Selectmen)**

**Estimated tax increase \$ .04 per thousand**

**Marylou made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 15 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion failed with 9 nos and 1 abstention.**

**ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town of Epsom raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the installation of an electric meter and the purchase of materials for the beautification and maintenance of the Epsom Traffic Circle? Majority vote required; this appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Not recommended by the Selectmen)**

**Estimated tax increase \$ .01 per thousand**

**Marylou made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 16 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion failed with 1 yes, 8 nos and 1 abstention.**

**ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town of Epsom raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to hire a Webmaster to maintain the Town's website? Majority vote required; this appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Recommended by the Selectmen)**

**Estimated tax increase \$ .002 per thousand**

**Larry made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 2 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 6 yeses, 2 nos and 2 abstentions.**

**ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town of Epsom vote to require that the numeric tally of votes by the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen relative to recommending the operating budget and special warrant articles be printed on the warrant? RSA 32:5, V-a. Majority vote required. (Recommended by the Selectmen)**

No vote on this Article was required by the Budget Committee.

**ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representatives, our State Senator and our Governor:  
Resolved: We the citizens of Epsom, NH believe in a New Hampshire that is just and fair. The property tax has become unjust and unfair. State leaders who take a pledge for no new taxes perpetuate higher and higher property taxes. We call on our State Representatives, our State Senator and our governor to reject the “Pledge”, have an open discussion covering all options, and adopt a revenue system that lowers property taxes.**

**BY PETITION**

No vote on this Article was required by the Budget Committee.

**ARTICLE 20: No invoice to the town of Epsom from a Law-office (lawyer) is to be incurred by any Selectperson for legal consultation to that Selectperson or Selectpersons, unless the Board of Selectmen have previously voted in the affirmative for that particular issue to be brought to that law-office (lawyer) by that Selectperson or Selectpersons.**

**BY PETITION**

No vote on this Article was required by the Budget Committee.

**ARTICLE 21: All contracts for work needing to be done for the Town of Epsom by an independent contractor will be cost-estimated for budget purposes. If the budget-estimate is for two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) or more, then the job will be put out to bid by obtaining sealed bids from a minimum of two (2) bidders. As to which bid is selected, the board of Selectmen will open the bids, and make their decision, in a public meeting.**

**BY PETITON**

No vote on this Article was required by the Budge Committee.

### **School Warrant Articles**

**Article 1: Shall the 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 therein, totaling \$8,071,443? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$7,904,002 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the 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.

[Approval of the proposed School District budget will result in a projected \$1.25 per \$1,000 increase in the tax rate. Rejection of the proposed budget will result in a projected \$0.88 per \$1,000 increase in the tax rate under the Default Budget.]

Larry made a motion to recommend School Warrant Article 1 with Joyce seconding the motion.

Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 8 yeases, 1 no and 1 abstention.

**Article 2: 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, 2008 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2008.**

Larry made a motion to recommend School Warrant Article 2 with Joyce seconding the motion.

Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 9 yeases and 1 abstention.

**Article 3: Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the cost items set forth in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Epsom School Board and the Epsom Support Staff Association for the 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, and 2011/12 fiscal years which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits:**

Year 2008/09	\$36,292
Year 2009/10	\$32,726
Year 2010/11	\$35,671
Year 2011/12	\$32,583

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,292 for the 2008/09 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year?

[Approval of the collective bargaining agreement will result in a projected \$0.08 per \$1,000 increase in the tax rate.]

**Marylou made a motion to recommend School Warrant Article 3 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 6 yeses, 1 no and 2 abstentions.**

**Article 4: Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$34,884 for the 2008/09 school year for the purpose of providing bus transportation to Epsom students attending Pembroke Academy?**

**[Approval of this article will result in a projected \$0.08 per \$1,000 increase in the tax rate.]**

**Marylou made a motion to recommend School Warrant Article 4 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 5 yeses, 4 nos and 1 abstention.**

**Article 5: Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$78,069 for removal of asbestos flooring and installation of replacement flooring at Epsom Central School.**

**[Approval of this article will result in a projected \$0.17 per \$1,000 increase in the tax rate.]**

**Larry made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 2 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 8 yeses, 1 no and 1 abstention.**

**Water District**

**Larry made a motion to accept the Water District budget of \$151,333.00 with Joyce seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion.**

Barbara reiterated her concerns if FEMA money should be part of the budget. Larry had a concern about recommending a budget as he is not in the Water District.

**There being no further discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed with 4 yeases, 2 nos and 3 abstentions.**

Marylou reminded everyone the deliberative session is on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 AM.

**Larry made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Carole seconding the motion.**

**Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

Harvey adjourned the meeting at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Bosiak  
Recording Secretary