

TOWN OF EPSOM

BUDGET COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 2, 2008

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

Excused: Don Harty; Barbara Doughty; Steve Merrill

Harvey opened the meeting at 2:26 P.M. following the town deliberative session.

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 a one time pay adjustment to the annual salary 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)

Ed made a motion to recommend Article 4 as amended at the deliberative session 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 failed with 3 yeses, 5 nos 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 portable or permanent 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 The sum of thirty-two thousand dollars (\$32,000.00) would be withdrawn from a previously established capital Reserve Fund for that purpose.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)

Brad made a motion to recommend Article 9 as amended at the deliberative session with Marylou seconding the motion.

Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion.

Ed and Larry were against this article with Larry feeling the town should purchase land first.

There being no further discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote.

The motion failed with 1 yes, 7 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 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). 3/5th ballot vote required; this is a Special Warrant Article. (Recommended by the Selectmen)

Ed made a motion to recommend Article 12 as amended at the deliberative session with Joanne 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, 7 nos and 1 abstention.

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town of Epsom raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) 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.

Ed made a motion to recommend Article 16 as amended at the deliberative session with Karen 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 2 yeses, 6 nos and 1 abstention.

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 \$2,882,220.00? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$2,469,882.00, 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)

Ed made a motion to recommend Article 1 as amended at the deliberative session with Carole seconding the motion.

Harvey asked if there was any discussion on the motion.

Discussion ensued that they were voting on the increase. Harvey said the Budget Committee had presented their budget to the voters. Larry said now the budget was the town's peoples.

There being no further discussion on the motion, Harvey called for a vote.

The motion failed with 2 yeses, 6 nos and 1 abstention.

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 2:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Bosiak
Recording Secretary