

TOWN OF EPSOM  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 14, 2020

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

**Not in Attendance:** Tony Soltani

**Other Attendees:** Nancy Wheeler; Peter Warburton; Patrick Connors; Michael Wiggett; Cheryl Gilpatrick; Robert Paine; Hugh Curley; Pat Curley; Alan Quimby; Gloria Kaplan; Brian O'Sullivan; Karen Guercia; Christine Vayda; Carol Zink-Mailloux; Robin Donovan; Linda Valley; Joan Teune; Deb Sargent; Ben M.; Carol McGuire

Marylou opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Marylou asked that everyone sign in. She noted that the Town Deliberative Session will be February 1 at 9:00 AM with the School District Deliberative Session to be February 4 at 6:30 PM, both at the School Gym. Marylou reviewed the rules to be used for tonight's meeting.

**EPSOM SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Marylou opened the public hearing for the Epsom School District Warrant Articles. She noted Article 1 would be done last.

**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 Teachers Association for the 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23 fiscal years which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:**

<b>Year 2020/21</b>	<b>\$97,144</b>
<b>Year 2021/22</b>	<b>\$81,303</b>
<b>Year 2022/23</b>	<b>\$86,284</b>

**And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$97,144 for the 2020/21 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 Recommends Approval*

**[Estimated tax impact of this article is \$0.23 per thousand]**

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 2.

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 comment for Article 2 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 2 as presented, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed with a vote of 11 yes.**

**Warrant Article 3: Shall 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, 2020 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2020? NO AMOUNT TO BE RAISED FROM TAXATION.**

*School Board Recommends Approval*  
*Budget Committee Recommends 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 closed public comment for Article 3.

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 comment for Article 3 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 3 as presented, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed with a vote of 11 yes.**

**Warrant Article 4: Shall the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Building Maintenance and Repair Trust Fund previously established, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2020 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2020. NO AMOUNT TO BE RAISED FROM TAXATION.**

*School Board Recommends Approval*  
*Budget Committee Recommends 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 closed public comment for Article 4.

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

Virginia asked if the School Board would be the agents to expend without a special meeting. Marylou verified they are without further Town vote

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 4 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 4 as presented, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed with a vote of 11 yes.**

**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 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, herein, totaling \$11,659,218? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$11,635,734 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* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Budget Committee Recommends Approval*

*If passed, the new estimated tax rate will be \$19.52 [per thousand], which will result in a (\$0.36) decrease over the previous year tax rate.*

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

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

Michael Wiggett informed that the School Board met this morning and did not revote on the amended Article 1. They wanted to have public input before going further. They did not want to vote down the budget as it could be confusing for the public as it is not the same budget that they originally voted on.

Hugh Curley would like to see the third Kindergarten teacher put back into the budget. He noted the Town has been working on Economic Development. Hugh noted there is the opportunity this year with a minimum amount of displacement of funds and the adequacy funds to help offset the costs to help make up the difference. Education is a priority. He does not want Epsom to be the last town in the State to have all day kindergarten. Hugh noted he has heard Presidential candidates discussing all day preschool and Epsom does not have all day kindergarten. He noted there are studies that indicated children benefit from all day kindergarten. Children learn more with all day kindergarten. Hugh feels the Town should be investing in the children.

Carol Zink-Mailloux would like to see the funds put back in the budget. She asked the reason for removing it.

Marylou noted in the past seven years the last two years the School District had a default budget. The three years previously the budget passed. This year the change was \$131,829. The Budget Committee has been working to make cuts on the town side. Marylou noted the surplus in the school budget last year was \$199,000 further noting the surpluses in the past. If third teacher needed there will possibly be a surplus.

Carol asked if everyone knew how adequacy aid worked. Marylou indicated they did. Carol discussed the amount of aid the town receives (over two million) and would receive \$65,000 more if we have full day kindergarten with a cost of only \$40,000 for the Town. She discussed that in the next few years the school will probably not need a third teacher. She noted the School Board felt strongly about having full day kindergarten which is why they put it in the budget.

Brian O'Sullivan noted he is pediatrician and is a School Board member. He discussed that children need full day kindergarten. He noted the budget is less than in previous years. He noted they cannot be sure they will not need a third teacher. If there are too many children then teachers would not be able to handle them and would have a sub-optimal situation with complaints. If a third teacher would not be needed, they would be saving money. If funds are not needed it goes back to the town.

Pat Curley agrees with the need for all day kindergarten. She noted they are not her children, but the town's children that we need to educate.

Carol McGuire discussed as the school has returned over \$100,000 a year for several years, she is concerned with why we are arguing over this. She suggested they use the surplus to fund this.

There being no further public comment Marylou closed the public comment for Article 1.

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

Virginia noted that part of the reason there has been a surplus is due to the number of

children attending Pembroke Academy and less Special Education students. She noted it has been a difficult year for the Budget Committee. Cuts have been made in every town department. She feels that town should have all day kindergarten.

Virginia asked if she could make motion to put the funds back in.

Hugh asked how surplus is handled for school. Bill discussed it goes back into the general fund. Hugh thought they did not have an option to keep the funds.

Len noted it was a hard decision to find something for the school. The Budget Committee was trying to get the budgets down so they would pass. No one argued that the money was not necessary. They had reviewed the money that had been turned back in past years. It was felt the funds in the budget could be used to cover the costs. He noted they could add the funds back in, but do you want voters to vote for a default budget.

Virginia asked if the school had areas, they could find the funds if a third teacher is required. Mr. Connors noted the two biggest factors in the budget are the high school tuition and Special Education. One change in Special Education could be \$100,000. High school tuition is a concern also. He noted it would be a concern if they hire a teacher without this money in the budget.

Marylou asked if under a default budget would they still implement a full day kindergarten. Mr. Connors noted it could be possible. He discussed the State funds that the school would receive the following year. He noted finding the funds at the beginning of the year could be difficult.

Virginia asked if the money was not spent would the School Board give the money back to the town. Bill noted that everyone on the School Board indicated they would return the funds.

Virginia felt there would be a need for the third teacher. Linda noted the \$199,000 surplus was 1.6% of their total budget which is very effective management and cutting it very close on an \$11 million dollar budget. Linda spoke about the benefit to children for their entire life, not in just their kindergarten year. She stated we were one of very few towns in New Hampshire that doesn't have full day kindergarten and it would be very short sighted, especially with a school budget lower than the prior year. She also talked about the point Bill Yeaton had made regarding waiting until now when the state will kick in additional dollars - \$60,000.00 in the following year.

Len felt there would be a default budget if they keep adding funds. Bill noted if they have a default budget the School Board would be looking at cutting sports and the budget for busing sports teams. Marylou reiterated the amounts of the surplus figures.

**Virginia motioned to put the \$108,000.00 for the third teacher for full day kindergarten back into the budget, Linda seconded the motion.**

Virginia feels strongly that such a large a cut would be difficult for the School Board. Marylou noted that in the past the word has been put out to vote for full day kindergarten and they had a default budget.

Marylou called for a vote on the motion.

**The motion failed with a vote of 5 yes, 5 nos, and one abstention.**

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment on Article 1 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 1 as presented, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed with a vote of 8 yes, 2 nos, and one abstention.**

There being no further School District Warrant Articles Marylou closed the public hearing for the School District.

Gary noted that the Board of Selectmen had only used \$10,000.00 to offset the December 2019 taxes.

Marylou noted that the surplus from the school is not sent back to the town, but used by DRA to offset taxes when the tax rate is set for December.

## **EPSOM VILLAGE WATER DISTRICT**

Marylou opened the public hearing for the Epsom Village Water District.

**Article 7: To see if the District will vote to discontinue the, “Pipe Cleaning Fund”, previously established in 1987 with said funds and accumulated interest to be placed in the general fund.**

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 7.

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

Marylou noted this was an old fund that has no money in it, but was never officially closed out.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 7 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 7 as presented, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed with a vote of 11 yes.**

**Article 8: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate \$201,389 for the 2020 operating budget.**

**Commissioners Recommend/Budget Committee Recommend**

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 8.

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 comment on Article 8 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 8 as presented, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed with a vote of 11 yes.**

There being no further Epsom Village Water District Warrant Articles Marylou closed the public hearing for the District.

**TOWN OF EPSOM**

Marylou opened the Public Hearing for the Town of Epsom Warrant Articles noting Article 1 would be voted on last.

**Article 2: Shall the Town vote to establish a contingency fund for the 2020 year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) from the Unassigned Fund Balance to go into the fund? Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. Majority vote required. This Article and its appropriation are in addition to the operating budget.**

**No tax impact.**

**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 closed public comment for Article 2.

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 comment on Article 2 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 2 as presented by the Board of Selectmen, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes.**

**Article 3: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand eight hundred dollars (\$4,800.00) from the Unassigned Fund Balance, which is equivalent to the total amount of cemetery plot sales for 2019, to be added to the previously established Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation s in 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 impact.**

**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 closed public comment for Article 3.

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 comment on Article 3 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 3 as presented by the Board of Selectmen, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes.**

**Article 4: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00) from the Unassigned Fund Balance to replace the roof on the library? Majority vote required. This is a Non-Lapsing Warrant Article and will not lapse until the project is completed or December 31, 2025, whichever comes first. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.**

**No tax impact.**

**Recommended by the Selectmen 3 - 0**

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

Robert Paine noted that the shingles used when the Library was constructed were defective. They have been watching the roof and wanted to replace it before there were problems.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public. 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 comment for Article 4 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 4 as presented by the Board of Selectmen, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a vote of 10 yes and one abstention.**

**Article 5: 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.**

**Estimated tax impact is \$.01 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 closed public comment for Article 5.

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 comment for Article 5 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 5 as presented by the Board of Selectmen, Len seconded the motion.**

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

**Article 6: 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. 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.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 6 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 6 as presented by the Board of Selectmen, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes.**

**Article 7: 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. There were no 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.

The Budget Committee members had no questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 7 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 7 as presented by the Board of Selectmen, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a vote of 8 yes, 3 nos.**

**Article 8: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twelve thousand eight hundred dollars (\$12,800.00) to purchase ten (10) portable radios for the Fire Department and further authorize the withdrawal of the same amount of twelve thousand eight hundred dollars (\$12,800.00) from the Fire and Rescue Apparatus Fund for that purpose? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.**

**No tax impact.**

**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 closed the public comment for Article 8.

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 comment for Article 8 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 8 as presented by the Board of Selectmen, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes.**

**Article 9: 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 3 – 0**

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

Carol Zink-Mailloux asked what account the funds would go into. She asked if there were plans for the fund. Virginia noted the Road Agent does have plans. The fund also allows him funds if issues arise. It was confirmed he would like to save about \$500,000.00. Meadow noted he spent time assessing the roads this year. Nancy noted the Town Report will indicate how much has been spent from the fund.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 9.

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 comment for Article 9 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 9 as presented by the Board of Selectmen, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes.**

**Article 10: 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. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 10.

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 comment for Article 10 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 10 as presented by the Board of Selectmen,**

**Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes.**

**Article 11: 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 closed public comment for Article 11.

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 comment for Article 11 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 11 as presented by the Board of Selectmen, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes.**

**Article 12: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight-two thousand dollars (\$82,000.00) to purchase a new 19,500 gross vehicle weight dump truck equipped to plow snow for the Highway Department, and further authorize the withdrawal of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) from the Motorized Vehicles and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to pay part of the cost, with thirty-two thousand dollars (\$32,000.00) to be raised by taxation? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operation budget.**

**Estimated tax impact is \$ .07 per thousand**

**Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0**

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

Alan Quimby asked if funds are being taken out of the fund as well as putting money in the fund. Virginia noted that yes, they were taking funds out as well as putting money in.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 12.

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

Linda asked if same as Highway Vehicle Equipment Fund, Nancy noted the same fund. Linda asked if vote on would it be clear to the voters.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 12 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 12 as presented by the Board of Selectmen, Len seconded the motion.**

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

**Article 13: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) from the Unassigned Fund Balance to be added to the previously established Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance of Historic Town-owned Buildings? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.**

**No tax impact.**

**Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0**

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

Hugh wanted to speak in favor of this Article. It would allow the Town to complete work on older buildings it owns. He knew the Meetinghouse Committee was meeting with LCHIP for a grant. It was asked if the town had money to put forward. There are basic items to be done in the building.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 13.

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

Virginia noted her intent for the fund is if the Town is looking at matching grants, it would have funds to match. To obtain the grants you need to have funds available as a match. She would like to be sure all the historic buildings are maintained. The Meetinghouse Committee is working hard to solicit funds from businesses and writing grants to make the building useable for the Town.

Gary noted the Trust Fund is for maintenance, would it be able to be used for renovations. Virginia noted they could not use the money for that, but could use the money to show the Town does have funds.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 13 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 13 as presented by the Board of Selectmen, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes.**

**Article 14: Shall the Town vote to establish a Government Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the maintenance and upkeep of town buildings, and to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) from the Unassigned Fund Balance to be deposited into the fund, and further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and its appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.**

**No tax impact.**

**Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0**

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

Hugh noted that Mr. Paine spoke regarding the Library roof. This fund is not just for the Town's historic buildings, but any building, i.e. Police Station, Fire Station. He noted that a roof will be needed on the Police Department station in the future.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 14.

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

Virginia noted this was a way to have funds so as to not have a big hit for the Town.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 14 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 14 as presented by the Board of Selectmen, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes.**

**Article 15: Shall the Town vote to discontinue the Library Building Capital Reserve Fund created in 1995? Any and all funds remaining, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. Majority vote required.**

**Recommended by the Selectmen 3 - 0**

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

Alan Quimby asked the balance in the fund, Marylou indicated it was zero, it had never been officially closed out.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 15.

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 comment for Article 15 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Article 15 as presented by the Board of Selectmen, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes.**

**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 \$3,598,948? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$3,551,506 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 have a tax rate of \$4.14, 1 cent less than the 2019 Tax rate.***

***The default budget is estimated to have a tax rate of \$4.03, 12 cents less than the 2019 Tax rate.***

Marylou asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public. There were no questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 1.

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

Marylou noted she had sent out an e-mail with all the adjustments made in the Town budget.

Virginia wanted to address the gasoline line for the Police Department (01-4210.1-635) noting the Committee had reduced the amount. She spoke with the Police Chief who is concerned that he might not be able to have his men out, especially with the cut in the dispatch line (01-4210.1-343). He is concerned with having 5 full time officers in the Department. In past they did not spend a lot, as the Department only had 3 officers. He is also concerned with a possible increase in gasoline costs.

Marylou noted there has been 24-hour coverage with the 3 officers.

Virginia discussed the original Dispatch quote was what the Chief was given. He is

concerned with being able to put officers on the road, and having 2 officers on the road at the same time. She is asking to have the gasoline line increased to \$18,000.00.

**Virginia motioned to put \$1,000.00 into gasoline line (01-4210,1-635), Mary seconded the motion.**

Len was confused as when the Chief presented his budget, Len thought the Chief explained that the mileage might go up.

Marylou questioned this as she thought there are times now that 2 officers are on the road. The Committee discussed of the amount of gasoline cut (435 gallons).

Virginia asked about dispatch costs, it was discussed.

Marylou asked for vote on the motion.

**The motion failed by a vote of 3 yes, 8 nos.**

**Virginia motioned to put back \$1,000.00 in the dispatch line (01-4210.1-343), Mary seconded the motion.**

Linda asked why there was a need to go higher. Virginia noted the Chief gave the estimate given by dispatch service. The figures were discussed. Gary noted that during the day the Administrative Assistant completes the dispatching to save money.

**The motion failed by a vote of 3 yes, 8 nos.**

Joni noted they are going by the figures the Chief gave the Budget Committee.

Virginia noted that the Board of Selectmen had let the Department Heads make the cuts in their budgets.

Linda asked about the default budget figure. Joni noted the Budget Committee did not have anything to do with setting the default budget. Nancy noted the increases in the default budget that had to be added to the 2019 budget.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 1 requesting a motion.

**Mary motioned to recommend Warrant Article 1 as presented, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes.**

Marylou noted the revenues for 2020 that were presented to the Committee.



**Mary motioned to recommend the revenues as presented, Len seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a vote of 11 yes.**

Marylou closed the public hearing for the Town Budget.

Marylou noted that Nancy will have the Warrant completed by Friday at 11 AM. Nancy noted that the only reason it would not be ready on Friday is if DRA does not accept it or does not complete its review.

Marylou asked Bill if the School Warrant would be here on Friday, Bill will check on it. She also asked if the Water District Warrant could be available for signing on Friday also.

### **Minutes of January 9, 2020**

The minutes of January 9, 2020 were reviewed and amended.

**Meadow motioned to approve the minutes of January 9, 2020 as amended, Joni seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.**

Virginia asked who would be running again for the Committee. Marylou was not sure if she would be, Len noted he did not think he would be. He felt that someone should run a class on what it costs to run a town. He thought if you were not willing to sacrifice time you should not run, he noted the Committee put in a lot of time.

Virginia indicated everyone put in a lot of work and it will depend on the voters, and those that do not show up to vote. She is trying to make an effort to put things out to the public.

Len noted that nothing is a lot of money until you add it all up. Virginia noted that people are going to come. The issues were discussed.

Len thought the Committee should be more in tune with the Capital Improvement Plan. He thought they should look at it further and there should be more planning. He thought the Selectmen try to do right and also the Committee. He thought that the Committee tried this year.

Virginia felt the voters should be willing to support the budget.

Penny asked that the Moderator be asked to do Article 1 last at the Deliberative Session. Virginia noted that at the Deliberative Session there should be more explanation of the Warrant Articles. Len noted that people vote with their wallet.

It was noted that usually it is people with special interests that attend the Deliberative Session. Cheryl thought the Committee did a fantastic job.

**Bill motioned to adjourn; Meadow seconded the motion. The motion passed.  
Marylou adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Bosiak  
Recording Secretary