

TOWN OF EPSOM
BUDGET COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 20, 2022

Attendees: Marylou LaFleur-Keane, Chairman; Joni Kitson, Vice Chairman; Gary Kitson, Water District Representative; Meadow Wysocki, Selectmen's Representative; Mary Frambach; Joyce Heck; Len Gilman; Linda Hodgdon; Penny Graham; Michael Muise, School Board Representative; Floyd Graham

Not in Attendance:

Other Attendees: Gary Perry; Joe Wysocki; Cheryl Gilpatrick; Jerrica Vansylyvong; Virginia Drew

Marylou opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Gary Perry discussed the Parks and Recreation Budget. He noted that the Electricity line has been increased due to the potential rate increase.

Mr. Perry noted that they planned to paint the gazebo. They also plan to put a roof over the area used for the BBQ.

They plan to do electrical work on the garage and add mulch to the playground area.

They plan to add signs to some areas.

Groundskeeping is used to for the dumpsters and also for the mowing. It also includes the spring cleanup. There are some trees that have to be removed. The chemical toilets are also serviced.

Mr. Perry discussed the damage to the slide and the insurance payment for the repairs.

Mr. Perry discussed most of the damage is people breaking light bulbs and driving on the field creating ruts.

The Committee thanked Mr. Perry for his service as Mr. Wysocki will be taking over as Chairman.

REVENUE BUDGET

Ms. Vansylyvong presented the Revenue Budget to the Committee. She noted they had not received the Rooms and Meals Tax payment from the State.

Linda asked about the difference in the Current Use Tax. That is determined by the amount of timber cut during the year.

Linda asked about the State reimbursement. Ms. Vansylyvong noted it was an overpayment for Police and Fire Retirement payments.

Ms. Vansylyvong noted the Town is also getting a one-time grant from the State based upon population of approximately \$100,000.00. Joni asked if it had to be spent by a certain date, Ms. Vansylyvong did not know.

Marylou noted that the Committee could review the 5-year report individually when they had time.

Minutes

The minutes of December 8, 2022 were reviewed and amended.

Joni motioned to approve the minutes of December 8, 2022, as amended; Linda seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The minutes of December 15, 2022 were reviewed and amended. Marylou wanted to wait to approve the December 15 minutes until the amendments were added.

TOWN BUDGET

Joni asked why the increase in the Selectmen's Wages. Meadow noted that they increased it do to the amount of work they have to complete.

Marylou noted there will be a new Trustee of the Trust Funds as Mr. Johnson will not be running again. She discussed the cost of the training for the Trustees.

Line 4134370 – Training and Conferences - Joni motioned to increase the line from \$140.00 to \$300.00; Gary seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Linda discussed the information she printed from the Department of Education website for superintendent and business administrator salaries. She also noted the draft comparison sheet she was preparing. The chart was discussed with supervisory districts being added.

Gary noted that he would like to know why our SAU is so difficult when other SAU's have more students, etc. Linda noted that the Budget Committee wanted SAU's with multiple towns.

Len noted that there are two problems - we are talking about higher grades going out of town – he felt that it should be considered. It was discussed as to other SAU's also had higher grades going out of town.

Penny noted that in the past SAU 53 had 8 towns and the superintendents did not visit the schools as often as they do now. The issues were discussed.

Gary asked when petition Warrant Articles have to be presented. Marylou noted January 10. Mike discussed the potential Warrant Article and that the SAU budget can't be removed from the School Budget unless all 5 towns vote to separate it from the School Budgets. Mike thought someone should bring the Article to the School Board meeting on January 3rd. Gary will contact the School Board members. He asked the Budget Committee members opinion on a petition Warrant Article for separating the SAU budget from the School Budget. There was a consensus to bring to a vote in March to separate the SAU Budget from the School Budget. The issues were discussed.

Meadow motioned to adjourn; Linda seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Marylou adjourned the meeting at 8:56 P.M.

Respectfully,

Betsy Bosiak
Recording Secretary