

TOWN OF EPSOM
BUDGET COMMITTEE
JANUARY 13, 2022

Attendees: Marylou Keane, Chairman; Joni Kitson, Vice Chairman; Gary Kitson, Water District Representative; Virginia Drew, Selectmen's Representative; Meadow Wysocki; Joy Sheehan; Mary Frambach; Joyce Heck; Len Gilman; Linda Hodgdon; Michael Muise, School Board Representative

Not in Attendance: Penny Graham (via Telephone)

Other Attendees: Patrick Connors; Michael Wiggett; Peter Warburton; Amber Wheeler; Hugh Curley; Cheryl Gilpatrick; Stephanie Colvin; Debbie Sargent; George Carlson; Keith Cota; Gary Matteson

Marylou opened the meeting at 6:12 PM.

SCHOOL

Ms. Wheeler noted they had put together a packet for the SAU Budget Information. She noted the Executive School Board approves the SAU Budget and then it is voted on by the members of all the SAU School Boards.

Ms. Wheeler noted concerns were the surplus. She said the SAU is run similar to a town. She discussed the surplus and the items that funds are put aside for. She noted if all the money is not spent it goes into surplus just like the School District. Ms. Wheeler noted they do receive grant funds, but not a great deal. She noted they budget for only what they need.

Gary asked about funds that are spent from the surplus without approval of the AREA Board. She noted they have purchased technology equipment with the funds. She noted that the surplus fund has never gone over \$300,000.00 in the 7 years that she has been employed by the district.

Ms. Wheeler noted an employee can receive a salary increase and discussed the example in the material. Ms. Wheeler noted they are having a difficult time getting and keeping employees due to low salaries.

Linda asked where the salaries were listed in the information. Virginia noted that the salaries are not separate, but listed in the budget.

Len asked the number of districts in the SAU. Ms. Wheeler noted 5 and how the payments are determined.

Gary asked how raises are made after the budget is voted on. Ms. Wheeler said that they are not changing the budget. He discussed the RSA regarding SAU's.

Meadow discussed that there are items that come out of the surplus and in the following year's budget it is included in the budget. Len discussed that the Budget Committee presents something to the voters and it is revised after that presentation.

Marylou noted that during the year we do not see the funds coming out of that surplus.

Gary noted the following year the 5% raise is calculated on the new salary. He noted the Town could not spend funds that are not included in the budget.

Ms. Wheeler noted it was not her prevue, but the AREA School Board. Gary discussed that the SAU budget could be a separate Warrant Article for the voters. He reiterated the bottom line could not change per RSA 32. Gary noted if you wanted to give a raise, they would have to go to the School Boards and tell them that they wanted to give a raise.

Marylou asked to be notified of upcoming AREA meetings, the salaries of the 17 SAU employees and if any salary increases are given.

Ms. Wheeler noted they are not going to present Article 5 with Mr. Connors indicating it should not have been listed on the Warrant.

PUBLIC HEARING

Marylou opened the public hearing at 6:30 PM. She reviewed the rules of the hearing.

EPSOM SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Article 2: Shall the Epsom School District vote to approve the cost items set forth in the three-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Epsom School Board and the Epsom Support Staff Association for the 2022/2023, 2023/2024, and 2024/2025 fiscal years which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Year 2022/23	\$185,188
Year 2023/24	\$ 74,473
Year 2024/25	\$ 80,933

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$185,188 fort he 2022/23 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 the current staffing levels?

School Board Recommends Approval
Budget Committee Recommends/Does Not Recommend Approval

[Estimated tax impact of this article is \$0.36 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.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 2 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 11 yes and 1 abstention.

Article 3: Shall the Epsom School District 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 2022 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2022? NO AMOUNT TO BE RAISED FROM TAXATION.

School Board Recommends Approval
Budget Committee Recommends/Does Not Recommend Approval

[Estimated tax impact per thousand \$.00]

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

Gary Matteson asked what the balance was in the fund. Ms. Wheeler noted it could be used for any student that requires special education and there were no funds in the budget for the student.

There were no further 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 2 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 3 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

Article 4: Shal the District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to be added to the Building Maintenance and Repair Trust Fund previously established, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2022 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2022? NO AMOUNT OT BE RAISED FROM TAXATION.

School Board Recommends Approval
*Budget Committee **Recommends/Does Not Recommend Approval***

[Estimated tax impact per thousand \$.00]

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

Keith Cota asked the fund balance and asked if funds have been used for something or is planned for some use. Mr. Connors noted items the funds could be used for.

Linda asked about the \$215,000.00 raised for another purpose; the School Repair and Reserve Fund that was not used for an addition to the school.

Marylou discussed a Warrant Article was created for the School Repair and Reserve Fund She noted it could be combined with a Warrant Article to this fund.

Hugh noted the title of the account was changed asking if the purpose also changed. Marylou indicated yes. It was noted that the amount shown in the report should go into the School Maintenance and Repair Fund.

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.

Meadow asked if there were any repairs discussed for use of the funds. Mr. Connors noted the roof in the oldest section of the building should be completed if the School Board should decide to repair the roof.

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

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 4 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 11 yes and 1 no.

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 purpose set forth therein, totaling Twelve Million, Seven Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand, Seventy-

Seven Dollars (12,723,077)? Should this article be defeated the default budget shall be Twelve Million, Five Hundred Sixty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars (\$12,561,728) 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 Recommends Approval
*Budget Committee **Recommends/Does Not Recommend Approval***

If passed, the new estimated tax rate will be \$18.75 [per thousand] which will result in a \$1.20 increase 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. 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.

Gary asked if the SAU planned to make any changes to their budget during the year. Mr. Warburton indicated yes. Gary noted he has a problem with the bottom line changing for the SAU. Joni asked if they anticipate taking anything out of surplus. Ms. Wheeler indicated she did not know as it was a vote of the AREA School Board.

Joni noted Ms. Wheeler said the AREA School Board voted in October on the budget, asking if raises were included in the budget. Ms. Wheeler noted that they are included in the budget.

Meadow asked if an amount has been determined and voted on from the SAU surplus fund. Ms. Wheeler noted \$120,000.00 was included from the SAU surplus fund.

Gary asked any further funds would be used from the surplus. Mr. Warburton could not say for sure.

Len asked what they could do to control the cost of education. Mr. Warburton noted it is a discussion they are having. Virginia noted it is how education is funded. Len further discussed education is important, but at what expense.

Mr. Wiggett noted the School Board members look at the budget and are concerned. He noted there is not a lot they can change. Joy noted many items are mandated and there are a lot of lines that they have to include.

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

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 1 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

Gary reiterated he did not have a problem with the school budget, but he does with the SAU budget as they give raises and then another raise later. He suggested two separate warrant articles, one for the school budget and one for the SAU budget. He noted Ms. Wheeler said the SAU is like a municipality so then they should be following the rules.

The motion passed with a vote of 10 yes and 2 no.

Marylou closed the Public Hearing for the School District.

The Budget Committee to a 10-minute break.

EPSOM VILLAGE DISTRICT

Marylou opened the public hearing for the Epsom Village District.

Article 5: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate \$230,760 for the 2022 operating budget.

Commissioners Recommend/Budget Committee Recommends

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.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 5 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

Article 6: To raise and appropriate fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the water System Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund with said funds to come from user fees.

Commissioners Recommend/Budget Committee Recommends

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 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.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 6 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

Marylou closed the public hearing for the Epsom Village District Warrant.

TOWN OF EPSOM WARRANT ARTICLES

Marylou opened the public hearing for the Town of Eskom Warrant Articles noting Article 1 would be voted on last.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one million two hundred thirty-seven thousand six hundred and ninety dollars (\$1,237,690) to renovate the Old Town Hall on Route 4 for use as Town Offices, including making the lower level of the adjacent Old Meetinghouse useable for records storage, Town Welfare Office, and Epsom Food Pantry. Construction will include expansion of the parking lot and a septic system to serve both buildings. This article will further authorize the Selectmen to utilize up to six hundred eighty-seven thousand six hundred and ninety dollars (\$687,690) from the Unassigned Fund Balance along with four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) of the American Recovery Plan Act funds, eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000) from the Future Town Office Capital Reserve Fund, and sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000) from the Historic Town-Owned Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. This is a non-lapsing Warrant Article and will not lapse until the project is completed or December 31, 2027, whichever comes first. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

No tax impact.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0

Recommended by the Budget Committee

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

Virginia noted that if there has to be a revision in the Article it could be completed at the deliberative session.

Cheryl Gilpatrick noted she is here representing herself as a resident and read a statement in favor of the Article.

Keith Cota gave background regarding the project. He noted the Selectmen created a committee in July to see if the Town Offices could be moved to the Town Hall. He noted the items that the committee looked at and if it was logical to renovate the Town Hall to accommodate the Offices. He noted they would also have to use some space in the basement of the Meetinghouse also. He discussed the use of an architect and engineer to

assist the committee to develop the space and develop a cost for the project and the steps they used to develop the costs.

Keith noted the spaces that could be used for large meetings as they could not be accommodated at the Town Hall. They include the Library, Fire Station, and School. Keith noted that the Town should use the property that it owns.

Hugh thanked the members of the committee and supported the use of the building for Town Offices hoping for the Budget Committee's support of the project. Hugh noted that the project could be completed within 6 months.

Virginia read a statement from Megan Rheaume indicating her support of the project.

There were no further questions or concerns from the public. Marylou closed public comment for Article 2.

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

Meadow clarified that funds used from the unassigned reserve funds would be used last after all other available funds were used.

Len verified that Milestone was the company used to move the Meetinghouse. Len noted that the Town Hall was to be a meeting house, and the office was moved out as it was a historic building. He thanked the committee for the presentation.

Virginia noted that the building is on the historic registry and she noted that other residents were told changes could not be made to the building.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 2 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 2 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 10 yes and 2 no.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to establish a contingency fund for the 2022 year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) 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

Recommended by the Budget Committee

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.

Gary asked about an invoice discussed at a previous meeting that was paid out of the fund in 2020. Virginia noted the invoice was paid out of the regular budget.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 3 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 3 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-two hundred dollars (\$4,200) to be added to the previously established Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, with said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance, which is equivalent to the total amount of cemetery plot sales for 2021? 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

Recommended by the Budget Committee

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.

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

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 4 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the 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 \$.04 per thousand

Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0

Recommended by the Budget Committee

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.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 5 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the previously established Expendable Trust Fund for the Maintenance of Historic Town-Owned Buildings with said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance? 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

Recommended by the Budget Committee

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 6.

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

Len verified that these funds would not be used for the renovation of the Town Hall into offices; Virginia indicated they would not be used for the renovations.

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

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 6 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the previously established Government Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund with said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance? 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

Recommended by the Budget Committee

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.

Len asked if the school could use these funds. Virginia noted they could not be used by the school. They were only for Town buildings.

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

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 7 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) 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.

<i>Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0</i>	<i>Estimated tax impact is \$.29 per thousand</i>
	<i>Recommended by the Budget Committee</i>

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.

Gary noted these funds were used to pave several road and other maintenance projects.

The Budget Committee members had no further questions or concerns. Marylou closed the Budget Committee comment for Article 8 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 8 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) 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.

<i>Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0</i>	<i>Estimated tax impact is \$.02 per thousand</i>
	<i>Recommended by the Budget Committee</i>

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 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.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 9 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) 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.

<i>Estimated tax impact is \$.05 per thousand</i>
<i>Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0 Recommended by the Budget Committee</i>

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.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 10 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty-six thousand dollars (\$66,000) for the purpose of purchasing a command vehicle for the Fire Department, and further authorize the withdrawal of the same amount of sixty-six thousand (\$66,000) from the Fire and Rescue Apparatus Fund for that purpose? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and is in addition to the operating budget.

<i>No tax impact</i>
<i>Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0 Recommended by the Budget Committee</i>

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.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 11 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for the purpose of purchasing overhead doors for the Fire Department, and further authorize the withdrawal of fifteen thousand (\$15,000) from the Lillian Morrison Fire Fund with the balance of fifteen thousand (\$15,000) to be raised by taxes? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and is in addition to the operating budget.

Estimated tax impact is \$.03 per thousand
Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0 Recommended by the Budget Committee

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 12.

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 12 requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 12 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-seven thousand dollars (\$37,000) to pay for seven (7) months' salary, benefits and equipment for one (1) additional full-time police officer? Majority vote required. This is a Special Warrant Article and is in addition to the operating budget.

Estimated tax impact is \$.07 per thousand
Not recommended by the Selectmen 2 – 1 Recommended by the Budget Committee

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 13.

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

Len asked why the Selectmen voted against this article. Virginia noted that she was concerned the officer would not be used as a full-time police officer but as a Resource Officer at the school. She thought she did not have enough information to vote for the additional officer. The article was discussed. Virginia noted the Town has had a difficult time obtaining a full staff. Joni noted that he has a full staff currently.

Cheryl Gilpatrick noted that the Chief has come before the Selectmen with the additional work they have had in the past year due to COVID and accidents.

Len said anytime you can get someone to do anything is a benefit. He thought the Chief was trying to use it for two things, the School Resource Officer and to assist with regular Police Department items.

Marylou noted that she was uncertain as she is not sure if she has heard enough information to determine the need for an additional officer.

Len noted you have to plan ahead in today's world. Linda asked the number of officers today, there are 6. Virginia noted other towns have part-time officers to cover vacations, etc.

Meadow would support the officer to cover for vacations, etc. as it is less of a cost than paying overtime.

Further discussion ensued regarding the position.

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

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 13 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 8 yes and 4 no.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) 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.

<i>Recommended by the Selectmen 3 – 0</i>	<i>Estimated tax impact is \$.01 per thousand</i>
	<i>Recommended by the Budget Committee</i>

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 14.

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

Virginia noted at the last meeting they asked for the report and she forwarded the 2020 report. There is a new president and she is concerned as there has not been any communication. The Town is still reaching out to obtain information. Her question is if the tax payers vote for it and the association is defunct then the funds would not go to it. If it is voted and there is an association the money would have to go to the association.

It was discussed the Selectmen would have to justify the expense before sending the check. Deb Sullivan noted they have not formally requested the funds for 2022. Virginia noted they are always behind in the request.

Len asked if it is not okay what would happen if the article is voted no. Gary noted the budget for the association. Len asked why they are asking the Town for money as the residents along the lake also pay.

Joy noted that the water also goes to other ponds, etc. The issues were discussed.

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

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 14 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion failed with a vote of 5 yes and 7 no.

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 \$3,699,853. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,707,073 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Epsom 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.

The operating budget is estimated to have a tax rate of \$3.68, which is .03 cents less than the 2021 Tax rate. The default budget is estimated to have a tax rate of \$3.69, .02 cents less than the 2021 Tax rate.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0 Recommended by the Budget Committee

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.

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

Meadow motioned to recommend Article 1 as written; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

REVENUE FOR 2022

The proposed Town Revenue, not including property taxes was noted to be One Million Eight Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$1,874,900)

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 the proposed Revenue.

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 the proposed Revenue requesting a motion.

Meadow motioned to recommend the proposed Revenue as presented; Mary seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a vote of 12 yes.

Marylou closed the public hearing for the Town Warrant Articles and proposed Revenue.

Minutes

The minutes of January 11, 2022 were reviewed and amended.

Virginia motioned to approve the minutes of January 11, 2022 as amended; Gary seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Marylou reminded the Committee to go to the Town Office to sign the Warrants next Thursday or Friday.

Gary noted he has been on the Budget Committee many years and this Committee has worked very hard to save money. He noted that it has been done correctly.

Joy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Marylou adjourned the meeting at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully,

Betsy Bosiak
Recording Secretary

