

TOWN OF EPSOM  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 6, 2022  
WORK SESSION

**Attendees:** Marylou 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

**Not in Attendance:** Mary Frambach

**Other Attendees:** Virginia Drew; Cheryl Gilpatrick; Scott Elliott; Glenn Horner; Jerrica Vansylyvong

Marylou opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Scott Elliott noted he moved money to different lines, so the budget only increased by 1.1%. He discussed lines that were increased. It was noted that the Sand and Salt Line was separated so each has its own line.

The training line was reduced as most of the trainings are on-line at no cost.

The Diesel Fuel line is the same with discussion that the cost may increase. Mr. Elliott noted that they did fine this year with that line.

The equipment line was decreased by \$4,000.00 as Mr. Elliott thought there was not many items, they would have to purchase in 2023.

Mr. Elliott noted in 2022 he finished the paving that had base coats from previous years. He noted that they received an additional \$110,000.00 grant that must be spent on roads that he plans to spend in 2023. He discussed roads he wanted to pave in 2023.

He noted the block grant was \$134,000 in 2022 and he is assuming it will be similar in 2023.

Len asked what projects he might spend the additional \$110,000. Mr. Elliott noted possibly Mill House Road as it gets a lot of traffic.

Mr. Elliott noted the only item in his CIP he planned to replace in the near future is the backhoe.

Len discussed the advantage of lease/rent of equipment vs. owning. It was discussed that Mr. Elliott pays for having the company maintaining the equipment. Len noted that it would cost the Town money, but he discussed that equipment should be traded in every 5 years due to electronics. The costs of repairs are increased after 5 years.

## **ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

Glenn Horner noted his budget is the same as 2022. He had a graph of the number of cases over the past 10 years that he showed the committee. He noted that the budget is less now than in 2012.

Mr. Horner noted that there should be no expense to the Town as the applicant pays the fees. Len asked how the application fee was determined. Mr. Horner discussed that he averaged the overall costs divided by the number of projects and used that figure.

Mr. Horner discussed that at one time the ZBA was accused of being not business friendly with a very high percentage approved. He discussed the cases and number that were approved considering the applicant is asking to break the zoning rules.

Len asked if the costs were broken out for a basic meeting. Mr. Horner discussed the way the costs were broken out.

Floyd asked the turnaround time for an application. Mr. Horner discussed the required timeline for all applications. Mr. Horner discussed the timelines and noted that the Board has never not heard a case when scheduled.

Mike Muise arrived from a School Board meeting.

Len asked the increase in businesses in Epsom over the years. Len asked if there were more businesses coming into Town vs. past years. Mr. Horner thought that businesses are rather steady.

Floyd discussed that it is not the number of businesses coming in, but the quality of the businesses. The issues were discussed with Len noting the Town needs businesses.

Floyd discussed issues with building permits and Town employees completing inspections. Meadow noted the Zoning Compliance Officer is enforcing the regulations and items set by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Meadow noted that businesses are getting notices indicating they are not in compliance. Mr. Horner discussed in the past that a business would get fined and went to the Board of Selectmen and they often waived the fines. Mr. Horner completed his presentation.

Gary discussed the RSA that allows the SAU budget be separate from the school Budget. He noted they should have a default budget within their budget. He noted that there was no default budget for the SAU in last year's information.

Marylou noted the next meeting is at the library. She discussed the items she asked from the library, but has not received. She will again request the actual year to date, etc. The members indicated they would like more detail presented.

Len noted that he would like to review the BCEP budget. He noted there is not a lot of money difference between the BCEP and the library budgets. He noted that many residents do not use BCEP or the library. As a commercial enterprise he does not use the BCEP. He noted BCEP operates the same as it has for the last 30 years. He noted that it is not set up to handle commercial enterprises. He discussed that he feels we should not pay a tax for BCEP that he does not use. He also has the same feelings regarding paying for the library that he does not use.

Len discussed that nothing has changed at the BCEP since it opened. He would like to look at paying for it differently. He further discussed the issues and noted that the State and Federal Government keep changing the guidelines. Len felt it was a town problem and he would like to have a dialog in town to change things. He feels it is something to be looked at.

Joni discussed that BCEP should revise the way they could handle commercial disposals.

Penny asked about the RSA that makes the library budget separate from the town. Virginia noted that New Hampshire is the first state to recognize and separate libraries from the town. Linda asked for the RSA that covers the library. Marylou did not have the RSA and reviewed the e-mail from the Library Director. The issues were discussed.

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

Marylou adjourned the meeting at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully,

Betsy Bosiak  
Recording Secretary