

Town of Epping
Budget Committee Meeting
April 18, 2018

Call to Order:

The budget committee meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members followed by a moment of silence for the troops.

Attendance:

Budget Committee Members: Don MacLaren-Chairman, Steve Ozols-Vice Chairman, Jeff Leombruno, Heather Clark-School Board Rep., Adam Munguia-Town Selectman Rep., Jen Chapman, Marc Nickerson, Joe Perry, Joe Trombley and Cynthia Hounam. Jacklyn Ulban-excused, Michael Charkowski-not present.

Open Comments:

Don opened up the board for any comments before a quick review of the town voting results.

New Business:

Adam said this is our first meeting after the election and would like to thank everyone for their effort last year, everything has passed and we have a challenge moving forward. Adam recapped the results:

Article 5: Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade: Passed and needed to be done. Don asked why the amount was double when they came back to present it the second time. Adam said they did not see it coming as they thought they budget enough, they received last minute changes which increase the budget.

Article 6: Library Addition: Passed and they are working with the board of trustees. Don is concerned that there may be increases from what they proposed, would like to keep a close eye on everything. Heather said this is a bond issue and they can only spend what was passed, anything beyond that they would have to do a fundraiser or come to the town with another number. Adam said there has been a lot of discussion with the trustees, the board of selectman and town counsel on how to proceed, they are trying to come up with a phase approach with phase 1 getting an architectural stamped design, once we receive that cost we can then move forward. Adam said that we do not want to start until we know if we are in budget. Phase 2 would protect the interest of the town, we propose out of the \$600,000 we spend \$50,00 to see if the addition will be more. Don explained to the new board members that this has been 4 years in the making with the same plan and he also suggest them to watch some of the other meetings.

Article 7: 2018 Operating Budget: Passed as recommended

Article 8: Police Union Contracts: Approved both contracts.

Article 9 thru Article 14: All reserve funds passed.

Article 15: LED Street lighting: Passed. We have already received a check back. Don said that if you see a light out to report it.

Article 16-21 Petition Articles: All passed.

Adam said that is all for the town portion of the results. Heather will review the school articles:

Article 1: Bond for HVAC Renovations to the Epping Elementary: Passed. Heather said this has already been sent for bid, they will know tomorrow. They may be able to do it this summer and have it completed by the next year when the kids come back to school. Option 2 would be to have it completed next year. Don asked if they hold off until next year will they pay back less to the town, Heather said that with a bond the money is held until they expend it but will check on that. Heather said they will meet tomorrow, April 19 at 7:00, and they will know what the schedule is. Heather said they already had a company do the plans and it is now out to bid.

Article 2: Operation Budget: Passed.

Article 3: Paraprofessional Association Collective Bargaining: Passed

Article 4 & Article 5: Capital Reserve Funds: Passed. Heather said by establishing the Special Ed Fund it will allow them to keep the budget level when new special needs students come in to town. Heather said they took \$200,000 out and added it to the HVAC, their expectation is to add new roof to the elementary school. Heather said that whatever is not spent will come back to the town. Don asked if the roof is hanging on from year to year, Heather said that the roof has passed with every indication, but it is beyond its life. Don asked when the CIP review is, Heather said she will check and get back to him. Don asked when the space study is being done, Heather said the date has not been set yet, the expectation is this summer, but she will get back to him. Heather said there are two things the school is in process of doing, the 1st in the website and the 2nd is that Bonnie has given her notice and they are moving along on the process of finding a new business administrator. Don said will be missed and appreciates all their effort. Don asked for the school budget to look like the town budget so it is more clear what they can or cannot touch.

Don said the fiscal year ends on December 31st for the town and on June 30th for the school. The CIP review for the school is annual, the CIP for the town review is every three years so it will be reviewed the year after next. Steve asked why the town is every 3 years, Heather said there is a lot of moving pieces, for the department heads it was a lot time committed for minor changes. Don asked for any questions.

Don said the next meeting we will give feedback and input for town departments. Heather said copies of the CIP are available online and downstairs in Brittany's office. Don said the annual reports are available downstairs as well. Don asked for any other questions before we rework the board.

Don said we have June, July and August off, we are back in September.

Don will now reorganize the board to appoint the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Jeff nominates Don MacLean as Chairman, seconded by Heather. All in favor, Don abstained. Heather nominates Steve Ozols as Vice Chairman, seconded by Don. All in favor, Steve abstained.

Next is to approve the minutes of February 6, 2018, motioned by Heather seconded by Adam, abstained by Joe Perry and Joe Trombley. Approve minutes of January, motioned by Marc seconded by Heather, Joe Perry and Joe Trombley abstained.

Heather motioned to adjourn, seconded by Marc.

Meeting adjourned 7:50.

Respectfully submitted:

Cynthia Hounam