

Town of Epping  
Budget Committee Meeting  
January 9, 2019

Call to Order:

The budget committee meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. 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, Adam Munguia-Town Selectmen Rep, Heather Clark-School Board Rep., Jen Chapman, Marc Nickerson, Jacklyn Ulban, Joe Tremblay, Greg Dodge-Town Administrator, Lisa Fogg-Town accountant and Cynthia Hounam. Joe Perry and Mike Charkowski were not present.

Bob Jordan-selectman, Jim Pouilot, Mike Yergeau, Fire Chief De'Angelis, Police Chief Wallace and Tom Dwyer

Opening comment:

Don said tonight is the public session for the town and school warrant articles, we will read each one, discuss and then open/close it up for the public and then vote.

Don reviewed all the opening positions in the town hall: Board of Adjustments-(2) 3 year positions, Budget Committee-(3) 3 year positions, Cemetery Trustee-(2) 3 year and (1) 1 year position, Library Trustee-(2) 3 year and (1) 1 year position, Planning Board-(1) 3 year position, Selectmen-(2) 3 year positions, Tax Collector-(1) 3 year position, Trust Fund Trustee-(1) 3 year position, Water/Sewer-(1) 3 year and (1) 2 year positions and Epping School District-(2) 3 year positions.

Don asked for any comments from the board before we move to the warrant articles.

Petition Warrant Articles:

Article 26: By Petition: Rockingham Community Action: Read by Steve (attached). Keith Bates, Community Service Director is here on behalf of the article to discuss and answer any questions.

- Keith said their mission is the support low income individuals and families with direct services. They have been assisting Epping residents for over 50 years. Last year they helped 149 households, state wide electric assistance-\$74,000/164 families. They have individual grants and funding, one which is called Gift of Warmth which helped 8 households last year with \$3000 grants.

Don asked for any questions from the board:

- Jacklyn asked if he had any stats from last year of Epping families that took advantage of this program. Keith said yes, Head Start Program-4 families, 149 families for fuel assistance, 164 families for electric assistance, 80 families for the WIC program, 7 families for the work force development and 3 families for the homeless prevention are a few. Keith if you add it all up it is 494 household at a total value of \$340,000.

- Marc said he does appreciate the work you do but he does not feel the tax payers should pay. Keith said it comes back to the community, Adam added that it is an investment in our community, it is not a lot to ask.

Don has opened it up to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Adam, seconded by Heather, motion carries 8-1.

Article 29: By Petition: Richie McFarland Children's Center: Read by Steve (attached). Nicole Johnson, Development Coordinator is here on behalf of the article to discuss and answer any questions.

- Nicole is also a mother of a child with down syndrome who has benefited from the program until the age of 3 and has entered in pre-school better prepared. Richie McFarland is an early support in services program which provided critical therapeutic services from birth to 3 years of age. In 7 years we served an average of 15-23 children from Epping, last year we served 23. We are asking for \$6600 which is \$300 per child which equates to 5% of our annual costs.

Don asked for any questions from the board, open to the public:

- Mark Vallone, 252 Blake Road-former elementary school principal and currently serves on the governors' counsel for Early Development. Richie McFarland services are vital and the most cost-effective way for children to get caught up with their peers', they are better prepared for school with Richie McFarland services. If Richie McFarland was not here it would cost the schools a lot more money.

Don has closed it to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Adam, seconded by Heather, motion carries 8-1.

#### School Warrant Articles:

Article 1: Operation Budget: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board, open to the public, close to the public.

Article 2: Teacher Association Collective Bargaining: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board

- Tom Dwyer asked if there any handouts from the school board for the public, he stated there is usually something here for the public to look at. Heather said the warrant articles were already voted on last meeting.

Close to the public.

Article 3: Add to Buildings and Grounds Capital Reserve: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board, open to the public, close to the public.

Article 4: Add to Special Education Capital Reserve Fund: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board, open to the public, close to the public.

#### Town Warrant Articles:

Article 9: 2019 Operating Budget: Read by Steve (attached).

- Adam read the 2019 budget changes memo supplied by Lisa (attached). Adam said for the past 3-4 years the tax rate has been and they are trying to maintain but there were a couple big expenses this year. Adam will answer any questions.

Don asked for any questions from the board, open to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Adam, seconded by Heather, motion carries 9-0.

Article 7: Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade 1: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board,

- Steve asked Adam if they discuss this at their board meeting last night, Adam said yes and their contention is to put both articles on there to show the state we are putting the effort for forward on fixing the problem. Mike Yeargeau said this gets us to point to potentially receive grants, it is not fiscally responsible to pass the second article. The second warrant will come forward again next year as we are mandated by the EPA that this has to be done by 2021.
- Jacklyn asked what the rate increase to users would be if both these articles passed, Jim said about 35% but that would not happen immediately, you would not see the increase for at least 2 years.
- Steve asked if they both passed would last disqualify us for any future grants, Jim said No.
- Jacklyn asked what would happen if neither article passed, Mike said they will both come forward again next year and the town could also face fines.

Don has opened it up for the public:

- Mark Vallone said they have a team working on getting grants and it is important this article passes as it shows good faith to the state. This is critical to the word out the town on how to vote.
- Adam let the board know that both Mark Vallone and Sean Morrison are working on this.

Don has closed it to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Adam, seconded by Heather, motion carries 9-0.

Article 8: Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade 2: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board, open to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion not to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Adam, motion to **NOT** recommend, motion carries 9-0.

Article 10: Transfer Station Truck Lease: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board,

- Joe asked is the total was \$186,430.00, Bob Jordan said the total is \$160,450 with the first payment.
- Bob said the town was part of the Lamprey Coop which had a truck to do several towns, the Coop dissolved and we tried to bid on the truck but did not win. It would be more cost effective to purchase the truck.
- Marc asked if the hauling and transportation line will go away once the truck is online. Bob said yes.

Don has opened it up to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Marc, motion carries 9-0.

Article 11: Highway Truck Lease: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board, open to the public and close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Marc, motion carries 9-0.

Article 12: Police Equipment: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board,

- Heather asked if other places in town will be using this other than town employees, Chief Wallace said No.
- Joe asked where they send people now, Chief Wallace said they still do it now, but it is just outdated.
- Jacklyn asked about the canopy, Chief Wallace said he took it out.

Don opened it up to the public, and close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Marc, motion carries 9-0.

Article 13: Police Cruiser Laptops: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board, open to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Marc, motion carries 9-0.

Article 14: Accrued Benefits Expendable Trust Fund: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board, open to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Marc, motion carries 9-0.

Article 15: Town Hall Improvements Expendable Trust Fund: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board,

- Steve asked if the issue they found with the town hall will impact this article. Tom said they don not have any estimates, the engineer will be here tomorrow to see how bad it is so there may be a change at the deliberative session.
- Jeff asked if this fund will be used for repairs, Tom said yes but he wants to wait for the estimates.

Don opened it up to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Marc, motion carries 9-0.

Article 16: Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any question from the board, open to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Adam, motion carries 9-0.

Article 17: Watson Academy Repairs Expendable Trust Fund: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board, open to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Marc, motion carries 9-0.

Article 18: Recreation Facilities Expendable Trust Fund: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board, open to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Marc, motion carries 9-0.

Article 19: Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board,

- Heather asked why only \$10,000, Bob said they are trying to keep the budget as low as possible.
- Marc asked when it is closed will it be both side (land and stump), Greg said yes. Tom said the EPA is expanding the monitoring period, we are out 15 years.
- Jeff asked when the last time we put money in, Greg said we stopped about 3 years ago,

Don has opened it up to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Marc, motion carries 9-0.

Article 20: Fireworks Capital Reserve Fund: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board, open to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Marc, motion carries 9-0.

Article 21: Police Detail Revolving Fund Amendment: No money article

Article 22: Joshua Lane: No money article

Article 23: Epping Youth Athletic Association: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board, open to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Marc, motion carries 9-0.

Article 24: Dissolving Water and Sewer Commission: No money article

Article 25: Discontinue portion of "old" South Side Road: No money article

Article 27: By Petition: Chamber Children's Fund: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board,

- Steve asked why the vote by the selectman was not unanimous, Tom Dwyer said the person who voted in the negative is not present to state why.

Don opened it up to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Adam, motion carries 8-1.

Article 28: By Petition: Rockingham Nutrition & Meals on Wheels Program: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board, open to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Adam, motion carries 8-1.

Article 30: By Petition: Lamprey Health Care Senior Transportation Program: Read by Steve (attached). Don asked for any questions from the board,

- Steve asked who voted no and why, Tom Dwyer said the person who voted in the negative is not present to state why.

Don opened it up to the public, close to the public. Don asked for a motion to recommend. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Adam, motion carries 8-1.

That is all the warrant articles, the next meeting will be:

- February 5, 2019 – Town deliberative session – 7:00pm
- February 6, 2019 – School deliberative session – 7:00pm

Don asked all member to stay to sign the school forms.

Don asked for a motion to accept the minutes from January 2, 2019. Motioned by Adam, seconded by Marc, 1 abstain.

Don asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Jeff, seconded by Heather. Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Cynthia Hounam