

Town of Epping
Budget Committee Meeting
May 15, 2019

Call to Order:

The budget committee meeting was called to order at 7:05pm. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members followed by a moment of silence for the troops.

Attendance:

Budget Committee Members: Steve Ozols-Chairman, Rep, Heather Clark-School Board Rep. Jen Chapman, Marc Nickerson, Jacklyn Ulban-Vice Chairman, Robert Hodgeman, Sean Morrison, Mike Lecuyer. John Cody, Michael Charkowski, Cynthia Hounam and Adam Munguia-Town Selectmen was not present.

Opening Comments:

Steve said we only have a few things to go over which are not time consuming. This will be the last meeting until September then we start again in the fall. Steve asked for any opening comments. Steve would like to introduce and welcome our new members voted in last month, John Cody. Also voted in was Phil Dudovicz, who is not present tonight, as an alternate.

New Business:

Adam Munguia is not present tonight so we will not review the town budget, next item is the Town CIP (Capital Improvement Plan). This is issued by the town, prepared by the planning board and we review it at this time. The CIP is updated every 3 years per the RSA and was distributed after the last meeting. Steve opened up the floor for any questions or comments.

- Steve had a general comment, the last CIP came out in 2017 and is definitely due for an update in 2020 due to all the changes.
- Steve also had a question for Adam, who is not present to answer. He was confused on the Main Street-Blake Street bridge replacement on page 17. Is it happening around 2026. Heather does not believe it has happened, she believes the original intents was a 10 year bond which would be from 2017-2026 or the plan may have been to capital reserve it each year. Heather suggests sending an email to Adam and then email the board with his response. Steve we also keep tabs on that issue. Heather also said it is on Planning Boards scope to re-evaluate.
- Michael asked if it was common for a town to be on a 3 year schedule to review the CIP. Heather yes, they usually do a 10 year plan but review it every 2-3 years. Steve said part of the objective of a CIP is to make sure you level load over a period of time rather than all at once.

Steve asked for any other question before we move on to the School Budget review.

Heather said there was a new budget approved in May, should be looking at the dated April 28. Steve asked for any questions.

- John asked about line #214, are the physiological needs contracted out. Heather some are contracted out as it all depends on the needs, may be for tuition for students we send other places. John asked about being \$42,000 over budget, Heather that is what happens when you have special needs, it is non optional and required by law. Heather will get definitive numbers/breakdown on line #214, #2400 and the debt services/interest.
- Robert asked about the HVAC, Heather said that is it was completed in the fall. Robert asked if we incurred any additional cost. Heather said no.

Steve asked if there are any other questions on administration before we moved onto School CIP. Steve said this plan is for 2018-2025 and was updated last October. Heather said this was updated and approved the new plan in May.

- Sean did an overview about the state level with school building aid: There is \$80 million in school building aid, all but \$19 million is going to pay back debt. 4 towns that put in for building aid last year received \$17 million of the \$19 million leaving \$2 million for this upcoming budget. It would be in the best interest for Epping to fill out an application and send it Concord to have on file in case it opens up and we don't miss out. Sean will continue to keep an eye on this.
- Heather reviewed the grants they received over the past two years: 2018-2019 we received \$575,000 in grants, the year prior we received \$530,000 so each year we received about \$500,000 or so in state and federal aid. Last year we received \$75,000 for security grant. Sean said there may be more funds available for security grant, Heather will talk to Bonnie to see if we need anything additional.
- Steve asked regarding general facility and ground maintenance (pg. 4), do we have a routine maintenance plan in place. Heather said yes, it was update and is with the new facilities director, he is reviewing all the plans.
- Jen asked about the list of students in the building at 44% economically disadvantaged (pg. 3), that seems high. Heather said it looks like the numbers are not adding up and she will check and clarify but typically we are in the upper 20's – lower 30's.
- Michael asked why the elementary school classroom project was on hold, Heather said they may bring it forward in 2020 as they had to asked for the HVAC system first and we had to reprioritize.

Steve asked if there were any more question on the school CIP before we go back the school budget.

- Michael asked about the primex reimbursement on the unemployment/workers comp, was that a one time \$50,000. Heather said yes. Michael wondered about the kindergarten aid, the special ed was lower, and medicare was lower. Heather said that is all based on enrollment whether students are moving in or out, it is a

moving target. The school has to budget for the maximum percentage by the state. State aid is not always a firm number. Michael asked if this was a concern for the school or are these normal variances. Heather said it is normal and they do everything they can to make certain that it works. Steve asked for any other questions.

Steve asked Michael if he has done anything about comparing us to other towns, he has not. Heather will ask Greg what towns to compare to. Sean stated he could get that information from the state. Steve asked for any other questions.

Next is to approve the minutes from last meeting. Steve for a motion to accept, Marc motioned, seconded by Heather.

Steve asked for any closing remarks. Marc said the next meeting is September 18, regular October meeting and then we will meet more frequently. Steve said there is a lot going on in town with the library and water/sewer and will keep on top of this over the summer.

Steve asked for a motion to adjourn, Jacklyn motioned, seconded by Heather.

Meeting adjourned 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia Hounam