Town of Epping

Budget Committee

September 14, 2022

Call to Order:

The budget committee meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence for the troops.

Attendance:

Budget Committee members: Michael Charkowski-Chairman, Steve Ozols-Vice Chairman, Ben Leavitt-School Board Rep (zoom), Marty Dyer, Mark Vallone, Joe Trombley-Town Selectman Rep, Brian Reed, Jordenne Sargent, Sean Morrison-zoom, Cody Belanger arrived late, Greg Dodge-zoom and Cynthia Hounam-zoom. Jen Chapman was not present.

Opening Comments:

Not much on the agenda, things will get rolling next month. Michael will send out the email that Christine sent regarding the school budget with the timeline and budget process.

Roll call: Joe, Ben, Mark, Steve, Marty, Michael, Jordenne, Brian, Sean via zoom. Cody and Jen not present.

Steve motions to accept the minutes of April 20, seconded by Marty.

Steve motions to accept the minutes of May 18, seconded by Mark.

Ben motions to table minutes for June 29 to verify the motion made by Jen regarding the school budget.

Town Budget Review: Joe to review.

* Joe broke down the dates of the budget reviews:
  + September 19: Police
  + September 26: Fire
  + October 3: Transfer Station
  + October 11: Town Clerk, Recreation, Tax Collector and smaller budget, if there is time.
  + October 17: Smaller budgets if not addressed on the 11th
  + October 24: go back and review remaining budgets
* They are targeting October 24 to be wrapped up and submitted but it is more likely to be November 1.
  + November 7: Final approval and submission to budget committee and to review within the week.
* Brian asked if the public was allowed during these meetings, Joe said the public is always allowed to show up, but it is more of a presentation for them.
* Mark asked if there was any inclination from any department for anything major, Joe said not off hand. Joe said the police is up there, the fire is looking to hire another full timer but no major fixtures.
  + Joe said he is not sure of the police, they talked about shields last year and there are some upcoming requirement.
* Mark asked if the additional dumpster is going to come back, Joe said there was discussion for it to be in the budget.
* Sean asked if they budgets were going to be presented to us, Mike said the town and school are going to propose the budgets in November.
* Joe encourages everyone to tune into the meeting before we present the budget. Steve agrees with Joe and says that it is beneficial as it will help with the budget process. Joe will send out a link about listening to the budget and nothing else.
* Cody asked if any department is looking for any new employees, Joe said he only heard of the fire department adding a fulltime person, not one else.

Michael mentioned two important items:

* The state passed a bill for the state to take on 7.5% of retirement payments
* The school budget for 2023 rates went down for retirement

School Budget Review: Ben to review.

* The major changes were due Christine of September 13, she has received them and is looking to get the budget but October 23.
  + October 4: Budget to be provided to the school board
  + October 6, 13 and 20th: Work sessions
  + November 3: Last review for final decision
  + November 8: Electronic copy to be sent to the budget committee
* Brian asked if there was a CBA coming forward, Ben said yes just the teachers’ contract. They started negotiations at the beginning of the month and looking to be done by mid-November.
* Sean asked about the sub-committee, Michael said Steve and him met once over the summer with Heather and went over some idea. He will put the list together and send it out to everyone.

Tentative upcoming meetings:

* November 2: Regular meeting
* November 9: Joe will review any town budgets that were approved
* November 16: First review of the school budget
* November 30: Second review of the school budget
* December 6
* December 13
* December 20

At the October 12 meeting the meetings can be finalized, Michael will check with Greg on the dates.

Michael asked for any old or new business. Michael asked for any questions.

Michael motions to adjourn, seconded by Steve. Meeting adjourned at 7:15.

Respectfully submitted:

Cynthia Hounam