



BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

ATTENDANCE

Chairman Michael Charkowski, Vice Chairman John Scully, Members Caitlin McCormack, Matt Hehl, Mark Vallone, Jen Chapman; School Board Representative Robin O'Day; Selectman Joe Trombley, and Secretary Becca Haggerty. Members Sean Morrison and Jordenne Sargent were not in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE TROOPS

BUSINESS

Tom Dwyer, Dennis Koch and Scott Pim present the budget for the 2024 water & sewer department.

Discussion about maintaining and monitoring of the town wells and the booster pump station.

Discussion of the current and proposed number of staff.

Discussion of the pros & cons of the new smart water meters.

Discussion of the number of new and soon-to-be new residents and their impact on the water and sewer departments.

Discussion of funds between grants, reserve accounts, etc.

Discussion of steps being taken to prevent a repeat of past issues within the departments.

Discussion over the current issue of rainwater and sump pump water going through the sewer system.

Discussion of the removal of 2 of the sewer lagoons, to be replaced with solar panels.

The presenters inform that there are no 2024 warrant articles for the water or sewer departments.

Discussion of the possible use, and distribution of costs, of an engineer, if hired, within the water and sewer departments.

Discussion of the possibility of communicating with other town to exchange information.



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The water and sewer representatives exit the meeting at 7:30 PM.

The committee further discusses the current and proposed staffing at the water and sewer departments.

The committee announces the resignation of Cody Belanger from the group. Further discussion on the filling of the open committee positions, posting, interviewing, start date, etc.

The committee confirms they will meet on 12/20/23 and discusses the agenda items for that meeting.

Selectman Trombley provides updates on town budget. Further discussion as to possible reductions, including transfer station staffing and police cruiser purchase.

Discussion of emergency spending, departmental accountability for certain expenses, inflation, and the tax rate.

Selectman Trombley presents an overview of the town and police warrant articles.

The committee discusses the school budget, pertaining to the proposed hiring of an additional custodian and possible methods of decreasing that cost.

Vice Chairman Scully exits the meeting at 9:15 PM.

The committee further discusses the needs and requirements pertaining to special education, as well as the capital reserve funds, and the consequences of the proposed budget being denied.

The committee discusses options for collaboration between the school and the community and alternative options for revenue.

The committee discusses an absence policy for committee members.

The committee discusses the cost distribution of the proposed engineer and the possibility of making this position a warrant article.

ADJOURN

**Motion by Chairman Charkowski to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jen Chapman.
Motion carried 7-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.



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Respectfully submitted:
Becca Haggerty
Secretary

Michael Charkowski, Chairman

John Scully, Vice Chairman

Mark Vallone, Member

Matt Hehl, Member

Jen Chapman, Member

Caitlin McCormack, Member

Robin O'Day, School Board Rep.

Joe Trombley, Selectmen Rep.

Dated: December 13, 2023

Sean Morrison and Jordenne Sargent were not present.