

**Town of Brentwood  
Budget Committee**  
Minutes of October 16, 2017

*Meeting:* Budget committee meeting held at the Brentwood Town Office

*Present:* Keith Levitsky, Bill Faria, Malcolm Allison (acting Chair), Michelle Siudut, Jeff Bryan

*Visitors:* Kim Woods, Lisa Swasey

Malcolm called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, and distributed Budget data packages which were prepared by Krista.

He noted that Krista was unable to attend due to a work commitment which took her out of the country; and both Jessie and Melissa Litchfield of the school board had to attend an important SAU16 meeting.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Malcolm called for approval of the draft minutes of the Budcomm meeting of April 10, 2017.

There no corrections. Motion to approve the minutes Keith/Michelle, carried 3-0, with abstentions by Bill and Jeff who were unable to attend the April 10 meeting.

**Updates from the Selectman & School Board Representatives**

Malcolm reported that he had spoken to Melissa Litchfield. She indicated that the school budget is still on track to be presented to the Budcomm on Dec 18, as Jessie stated at the last Budcomm meeting. The school board has not discussed the school budget yet as they have been working on the teacher contract. Both Melissa and Jessie send their apologies for not being able to attend tonight's meeting.

Malcolm further reported that he and Rob Wufchuck were asked to attend a recent School board meeting to talk about the possibility of adding a solar generator solely for Swasey School to offset the school's electric bill. Swasey uses approximately 400,000 Kwh per year (which is 2.5 times more than the solar generator at the firehouse can generate). In round numbers at today's rates, the schools bill is approximately \$50K, of which a little over \$20K goes to Eversource for distribution and demand charges. Demand and distribution charges are not recoverable. The balance goes to a third party energy supplier who is contracted for power for all of SAU 16. That rate is currently 6.9 cents per Kwh, much less than the town was paying Eversource, and even less than the 8.5 cents per Kwh we are paying Revision currently. In his opinion it will be extremely difficult to justify installing a solar generator at these rates based on cost savings. Let alone where to locate a solar field some 2.5 times as big as the one at the firehouse. The school board is considering the solar option and will make a decision on going forward or not in the future.

Jeff reported that the selectman have started the budget process, and as we can see from the data packages the first few department budgets are fairly flat. He noted that the Chief of Police,

Wayne Robinson, has given his resignation, and the selectmen are dealing with that problem but have not made any decisions yet. Wayne will continue to be the road agent.

**Budget Committee Budget**

Malcolm suggested decreasing the budget from \$800 to \$700 as we have fewer meetings, and less attendance at training sessions. Discussion followed. \$700 was moved Jeff/Keith carried 5-0.

**Budgets for Consideration**

Krista provided the members a spreadsheet, by department, summarizing yearly 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 budgets and expenditures and the 2017 approved budgets for reference.

Emergency Management Budget is level at \$14,875. Discussion followed. Motion to approve Jeff/Keith carried 5-0.

Legal Budget is \$10,000 lower than last year's budget at \$27,002. This is due to a reduction in attorney's fees, as it is anticipated we will need less legal service in the upcoming year. Motion to approve, Jeff/Michelle, carried 5-0.

Waste disposal, Waste collection, and Recycling Budgets totaled \$278,506 were considered together. The increase over last year is \$4006, due to a new contract for recycling pickup and rubbish collection. Motion to approve Jeff/Keith carried 5-0

Town Meeting Budget at \$4601, up \$1100 from last year's \$3501 due to more elections. There are 4 next year. Motion to approve Jeff/Keith carried 5-0.

Election Budget at \$8896, up \$2945 from last year's \$10675 due to there being 4 elections. Motion to approve Jeff /Keith carried 5-0.

Debt service Budget at 464,767, up \$124,612 from last year's \$340,155. Jeff explained the increase was due to the Prescott road principal and interest and an additional \$25K principal payment in the open space bond. Motion to approve Jeff/Michelle carried 5-0.

Assessing Budget at \$45,476, up \$14,024 from last year's \$31,376. This is due to a \$10K increase in electric utility assessing by a different vendor, and a \$4K increase in property appraisal. Jeff indicated that the town would probably get the increase back in tax dollars in terms of increased or more accurate assessing. Motion to approve Jeff/Michelle carried 5-0.

**Other Business**

None

**Visitor Comments**

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None

**Next Meeting**

October 23 2017 at 7pm

Motion to adjourn at 7:28 Jeff/Keith, carried 5-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Malcolm Allison