

**Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee**
Minutes of January 22, 2018

Meeting: Budget committee meeting held at the Brentwood Town Office

Present: Krista Steger (Chair), Malcolm Allison, Michelle Siudut, Jeff Bryan, Jessie Hollister, Keith Levitsky and Bill Faria

Visitors: Kim Woods, Lisa Swasey

Krista called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. She passed out minutes of the Board of Selectman's meeting of January 9, which identified the selectman's vote on a number of warrant articles along with a spreadsheet showing tax impact based on Budcomm's and Selectman's approved town department budgets to date.

Krista announced that the town clerk checked with the NH Secretary of State regarding the eligibility of a Brentwood non-resident to hold a position on the Budcomm, even though he owns property in Brentwood and pays taxes. This is an issue since Malcolm Allison moved to Stratham since the last Budcomm meeting. The town clerk ascertained that the State rules and regulations do not permit a nonresident to hold Budcomm position, property owner or not. Accordingly Malcolm Allison was not allowed to vote or speak at this meeting. He was allowed to take notes and prepared these minutes.

Krista asked the Budcomm members if they would seek a replacement for Malcolm Allison who could be appointed to complete his term which would end at the 2019 town meeting. At that time a new member could be elected by popular vote. Discussion followed regarding possibly electing a new Budcomm member even by write in. Krista indicated that the deadline for electing anyone has already passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Three possible revisions to the draft minutes of the Budcomm meeting of December, 18 2017 were identified. The secretary was asked to verify the vote count on the General Government Budget. Motion to table the revised minutes, pending verification, Krista/Keith carried 6-0.

Warrants approved by Selectman

Add \$17000 to the existing solar array capital reserve fund. This reserve fund is to purchase the solar array from Revision Energy after year 6. There is no tax impact if approved, since last year there was a similar warrant. Motion to approve Jeff/Jessie, carried 6-0

Add \$20,000 to the existing software for municipal operations capital reserve fund. This reserve fund is to provide funds to update software for various town departments. This year's amount will bring the total amount in this reserve to \$60,000. There is no tax impact if approved, since last year there was a similar warrant. Motion to approve Jessie/Keith, carried 6-0.

Add \$20,000 to the existing information systems hardware capital reserve fund. This reserve fund is to provide funds to replace hardware for various town departments. Jeff stated that the hardware needs replacing every 5 years of so, as it wears out or becomes obsolete. Discussion followed. This year's amount will bring the total amount in this reserve to \$40,000 there is no tax impact if approved, since last year there was a similar warrant. Motion to approve, Jeff/Keith, carried 6-0.

Add \$25,000 to the existing town buildings capital reserve fund. This reserve fund is to set aside funds for the 5 year property revaluation to avoid having to come up with 100K in one budget year. This year's amount will bring the total amount in this reserve to \$50,000 Discussion followed. There is no tax impact if approved, since last year there was a similar warrant. Motion to approve, Jeff/Jessie, carried 6-0.

Add \$50,000 to the existing maintenance of town buildings capital reserve fund. This reserve fund is to provide funds to repair various town buildings. Jeff stated that at this time there is no money in the reserve as last year the roof for the town hall exhausted the fund. The library needs a roof and a furnace. Discussion followed. Motion to approve, Jeff/Jessie, carried 6-0.

Appropriate \$88,995 for the third year's payment for leasing a new pumper truck. Jeff stated that if we don't appropriate the money, we will lose the pumper and the money we already spent. Discussion followed. There is no tax impact if approved, since last year there was a similar warrant. There are two more payments and then we will own the pumper. Motion to approve, Jeff/Jessie, carried 6-0.

Appropriate \$350,000 to repair roads. Jeff stated that this is for repaving roads and is really not enough, \$500K would be more appropriate. There is no tax impact if approved, since last year there was a similar warrant. Discussion followed. Motion to approve, Jeff/Jessie, carried 6-0.

Add \$50,000 to the existing highway vehicles/equipment capital reserve fund. This reserve fund is to purchase highway vehicles and/or equipment. Jeff stated that this

amount would enable us to buy a new plow truck with salt spreader. Motion to approve Jeff/Jessie, carried 6-0.

Add \$50,000 to the construction of highway buildings capital reserve fund. This reserve fund is to build a new town highway shed and in the future a salt storage shed. Jeff stated that this amount would enable us to build the highway shed this year; the salt building will not be built this year. There is \$250K in the reserve at this time. Discussion followed. There is no tax impact if approved, since last year there was a similar warrant. Motion to approve Jeff/Jessie, carried 5-1.

Add \$50,000 to the existing repair town bridges capital reserve fund. This reserve fund is to repair town bridges. Jeff stated that there is \$250K in this reserve currently and that Mill Road bridge engineering, which has to be done, first will cost \$100K. There is no tax impact if approved, since last year there was a similar warrant. Motion to approve Jeff/Jessie, carried 6-0.

The warrant to allow KENO will not be considered by the Budcomm, since there is no funding involved.

Additional warrants shown in the selectman's minutes have not been acted upon by the selectman, so the Budcomm will consider them at the next meeting on January 29, 2018.

Krista suggested that the members look at the warrant which asks for \$50K be added to the existing fire/rescue vehicle replacement capital reserve fund. Jeff stated that there are two police cruisers to replace as well as a possible fire command vehicle. Discussion followed.

Krista reviewed last years' warrants and compared them with this years'. She indicated that there is approximately a \$6K increase so far.

Krista reviewed the spreadsheet she prepared and stated that there is a \$328K increase in the town budget compared to last years which translates into a tax impact of \$0.60/1000 or \$210 on a home assessed at \$350K. She also reviewed the department budgets and identified the ones with larger increases. Discussion followed.

Other Business

Bill showed the committee a proposal from Granite Bridge which is a proposed natural gas line from Manchester to Stratham through Brentwood. The town would receive tax money each year. Jeff stated that it would be \$6M over 20 years.

Malcolm reported that he checked his written notes from the Dec 18 meeting and found that the the vote count on the General Government Budget was 7-0. Jeff /Michelle moved to untable and approve the revised amended Dec 18 meeting minutes, carried 6-0.

Krista thanked Malcolm for his service and encouraged the members to locate a candidate to replace him.

Keith asked there was any interest in re-opening the fire dept. budget to review the various scenarios that the new chief presented, as the fire budget is up significantly. There was. Krista stated that she will ask the new chief to attend the next Budcomm meeting as there will be questions from the Budcomm members.

Michelle asked how the amounts on the upcoming warrants for the charities are determined. Jeff and Krista indicated the amounts are based on the number of meals served or service afforded Brentwood residents. Michelle stated that she has heard from at least 5 residents who do not think the town should donate to charities. Jeff stated that after 3 years of warrants for a specific charity, the amount then goes into the town budget.

Visitor Comments

None

Next Meeting

January 29, 2018 at 7pm.

Motion to adjourn at 7:56 Jeff/Keith, carried 7-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Malcolm Allison