

**Town of Brentwood**  
**Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office**  
Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2021

*Present:* Keith Levitsky (Chair), Alina Arida, Lois DeYoung, Liz Faria, Melissa Litchfield, Michelle Siudut. Attending remotely was Andy Artimovich

*Visitors:* Chief Ellen Arcieri, Allison Higgins. Visiting remotely were Jack Mitchell, Liz McConnell, Mike Arida, Kim Leo, Ellie\*, Steve Johnson, Anthony Phillips, Jill\*, Kim Belliveau

\* Last name unidentified

Keith called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Keith, seconded by Liz to allow Andy to participate remotely. Voting in favor were Alina, Keith, Liz, Lois, Melissa, Michelle; passed 6-0-0

### **Budgets**

Motion by Liz, seconded by Lois to reopen Police Budget. Voting in favor were Alina, Keith, Liz, Lois, Melissa, Michelle; voting against was Andy; passed 6-0-1.

Liz had questions surrounding the pay matrix. Chief explained at time of hire, officers lock into a contract for 3 years; the process to get them hired is long, can take up to a year. The purpose of the matrix is to be competitive for recruitment and retention. Chief confirmed if matrix goes into effect in April all will get a pay increase; some may get an additional increase on their anniversary. 6th officer has not been hired; they will not be hiring a 7th.

Motion by Liz, seconded by Lois to reduce the Police Budget to \$863,720 based on not hiring 6th officer, and the fact that the budget used the highest overtime amount. Voting in favor were Liz, Lois; voting against were Alina, Michelle, Melissa, Keith, Andy; motion fails 2-5-0.

### **Minutes**

Motion by Michelle, seconded by Lois to approve the minutes of January 11, 2021 as amended. Voting in favor were Alina, Andy, Keith, Liz, Lois, Melissa, Michelle; minutes approved as amended 7-0-0.

### **Updates from School Board, Melissa Litchfield**

At last week's Cooperative meeting, it was decided that the deliberative session will be held in person on Saturday, January 30 at 2 pm at EHS. There is another cooperative meeting to decide if it is indoor/outdoor and further details.

### **Updates from Select Board, Andy Armitovich**

No update

## **Warrant Articles**

Motion by Andy, seconded by Liz to approve the warrant article for road repairs for \$350,00. Voting in favor were Alina, Andy, Keith, Liz, Lois, Melissa, Michelle; approved 7-0-0.

Motion by Liz, seconded by Andy to approve the warrant article for CRF highway vehicles for \$50,00. Fund is nearly empty, so looking to refund. Voting in favor were Alina, Andy, Keith, Liz, Lois, Melissa, Michelle; approved 7-0-0.

Motion by Andy, seconded by Keith to approve the warrant article for CRF bridge repairs for \$25,000. This CRF currently has \$565,102. They are looking to repair the bridge on Mill Road this year, and there is enough in the fund to cover the project. Voting in favor were Andy, Keith, Melissa; voting to oppose were Alina, Liz, Lois, Michelle; failed 3-4-0.

Motion by Liz, seconded by Melissa to approve the warrant article for the solar array for \$17,000. Voting in favor were Alina, Andy, Keith, Liz, Lois, Melissa, Michelle; approved 7-0-0.

Motion by Andy, seconded by Keith to approve the warrant article for CRF Systems/Hardware for \$25,000. Motion by Li, Lois to table, pending further information. Voting in favor were Alina, Andy, Keith, Liz, Lois, Melissa, Michelle; tabled 7-0-0.

Motion by Andy, seconded by Keith to approve the warrant article for revaluation for \$25,000. Fund is nearly depleted after last year's revaluation. Voting to approve were Alina, Melissa, Andy, Keith; voting against were Michelle, Lois, Liz; motion approved 4-3-0

Motion by Michelle, seconded by Keith to establish a CRF winter maintenance for \$50,000 to be taken from unreserved funds. Voting in favor were Alina, Andy, Keith; voting against were Michelle, Lois, Melissa; Liz abstained; motion failed 3-3-1

Motion by Liz, seconded by Alina to re-open Benefits. Liz learned about impact fees and the fact that some staff will not be taking benefits. Impact fees can be used for debt service and then that frees up debt service money for another line, such as benefits. Liz wanted to be clear that her intent with the original decrease was not to decrease benefits, but a push to find money in other areas. Motion by Liz, seconded by Keith to approve \$350,000. Voting in favor were Alina, Liz, Andy, Keith; voting against were Michelle, Lois, Melissa; passed 4-3-0

Andy said the selectboard did discuss the BudCom's request to establish a subcommittee to investigate health insurance options, but no committee was formed. If he is chair again, he does want this topic looked into.

### **Public Comments**

Allison Higgins has attended 2 meetings hoping the Committee would discuss Swasey Food Service and although we do not have a warrant article before us yet, she wanted to express her opinion on this topic. She is concerned about children's health, which is a crisis in our country. She is concerned about the lack of cooperation from SAU. We cannot increase sales and we cannot change the cost under the current contract. Alina explained the analysis she prepared. A lot of discussion ensued, but no item was brought forth for consideration.

Jack Mitchell questioned Melissa about covid expenses, which she clarified for him.

Kim Leo wanted to say that bringing food service inhouse should not be based on cost savings, it's a matter of providing good food.

Motion by Michelle, seconded by Keith to adjourn. Voting in favor were Alina, Andy, Keith, Liz, Lois, Melissa, Michelle; passed 7-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

January 25, 2021 at 7 pm - Budget Committee Meeting

February 8, 2021 - Budget Committee Meeting at 6:30; Public Hearing at 7

February 9, 2021 - Snow date for Budget Committee Public Hearing

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Siudut, Secretary