

Town of Brentwood

Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office

Meeting Minutes October 20, 2021

Present: Michelle Siudut (Chair), Lois DeYoung, Andy Artimovich, Alina Arida, Jack Mitchell, Anthony Philips and Melissa Litchfield

Visitors: Letty Bedard, Jon Morgan, Jim Johnson, Jim Berlo, Kim Leo.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Jack, seconded by Melissa to approve minutes, as amended, from the August 18, 2021 meeting; passed unanimously.

Update from Selectmen/School Board

Andy (Selectmen's Rep) - All of his comments will be relevant to budget discussions.

Melissa (School Board Rep)

- Department of Education for NH is going to return to Swasey School District \$133,059.44, at which time the School Board will have 2 options – use the money or do nothing and it goes into the General Fund. School Board voted 5-0 to do nothing, so tax rate will be offset by that amount of money.
- The SAU 16 Joint Board approved \$2,756,960.39 for the SAU16 Administrative Budget, an 8% increase. Last year this budget had a fund balance of \$150,000. They chose to NOT return to taxpayers and are claiming it will be used for technology. The Joint Board did not vote on this, it was a decision left to the Administrative Office.
- Swasey School Board is in contract negotiations with Swasey teachers.
- Discussion on ESSER funding. Superintendents determine how to use this, there is no oversight per Education Committee.

Budgets to Review

Emergency Management

- This budget is level funded but does include wage increase for Richard Murphy and his deputy Paul McFarland. Motion by Jack, seconded by Anthony to approve Emergency

Management Budget, \$14,875. Voting in favor were Michelle, Andy, Alina, Jack, Anthony, Melissa; passed 6-1-0.

Legal Budget, \$28,627. Tabled pending question to Karen.

Waste Collection/Disposal/Recycling

- This is contractual, but does have a decrease. Motion by Andy, seconded by Lois to approve Waste Collection Budget \$468,452. Voting in favor were Michelle, Andy, Alina, Lois, Jack, Anthony, Melissa; passed 7-0-0.

Executive Office

- Question of what is “LOSP”: fire department retirement fund. Budget is level funded. Motion by Jack, seconded by Andy to approve Executive Office Budget, \$25,047. Voting in favor were Michelle, Andy, Alina, Lois, Jack, Anthony, Melissa; passed 7-0-0.

Government Buildings

- Motion by Andy, seconded by Jack to approve Government Buildings Budget, \$83,785. Voting in favor were Michelle, Andy, Alina, Lois, Jack, Anthony, Melissa; passed 7-0-0.

General Government

- Discussed removal of the monthly newsletter \$10,200 funding to put into a Warranty Article. Lois made Motion to reinstate \$10,200 into this budget but did not receive a second, motion failed. Motion by Andy, seconded by Jack to approve General Government Budget at \$28,997. Voting in favor were Andy, Alina, Jack, Anthony, Melissa; motion passed 5-2-0.

Assessing

- Increase due to aerial maps required for new structures to parcels on tax maps \$15 each 44 new structures. Motion by Andy, seconded by Anthony to approve Assessing Budget, \$43,981. Voting in favor were Michelle, Andy, Alina, Lois, Jack, Anthony, Melissa; passed 7-0-0.

Welfare

- Motion by Jack, seconded by Lois to approve Welfare Budget \$7407, level funded. Voting in favor were Michelle, Andy, Alina, Lois, Jack, Anthony, Melissa; passed 7-0-0.

Old Business

- Health Insurance Committee. No update and group finished for this year.

- Department Visits:
 - Highway – Lois, Michelle, Alina, Jack and Anthony attended. Discussion with Road Agent, Wayne Robinson new building he is planning, conditions of roads and bridges. Also, discussed town shed employees and their wages.
 - Library – Lois, Jack and Michelle attended. Met with Library Directors and 2 Library Trustees. Introduced to new Assistant Director. Discussed repairs needed for the outdoor Amphitheater, this is a 2 to 3 year time frame.

New/Other Business:

- Andy reviewed the projected salary increases for town employees. This will be an increase of \$101,562.1 with benefits. Hope to offset the increase by not filling an open position in town office.
- Motion by Jack, seconded by Lois to approve Budget Committee Budget, \$500. Voting in favor were Michelle, Andy, Alina, Lois, Jack, Anthony, Melissa; passed 7-0-0.
- Alina has met with the new police chief to begin work on budget process.
- Jack requested an updated report of Actual & Budgeted Expenses and Encumbrances. Michelle will ask Karen for this.

Visitor Comment:

Upcoming Meetings:

November 3, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Lois will not be able to attend, due to previous commitment.

Adjournment: Motion by Alina seconded by Lois to adjourn. Passed unanimously, meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois DeYoung, Secretary