

Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office
Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2021

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

Visitors: No visitors present. Attending remotely were Chris Andriski, Jack Mitchell, Brain Duffy, Robin Woodward, Ron Kew, Kim Leo, Jenny Lebrecque, Michelle Larson, Kristen Goodrich, Anthony Phillips, Allison Higgins, Thad Riley, Mollie O'Keefe

Keith called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. Motion by Keith, seconded by Liz to allow Alina, Lois and Michelle to participate remotely. Voting in favor were Andy, Keith, Liz, Melissa; passed 4-0-0

Motion by Andy, seconded by Keith to approve the minutes of January 4, 2021. Voting in favor were Melissa, Andy, Liz, Michelle, Alina, Lois, Keith; minutes approved 7-0-0.

Updates from Selectmen

Per Andy, there are not many warrant articles and he is not aware of any further warrant articles.

Updates from School Board

Specific questions were presented prior to this meeting.

- 2225-50650 Technology - Ron Kew said they review what is used/not used on a regular basis. The increase of \$4500 is for Microsoft licensing, subscription to online math practice, assessments & screenings, PowerSchool, school messenger, remote learning platforms, ALICE (protocol for safety & security. The fee is for training all staff). 65% of students are in-person, but still need to have remote learning platforms for students who are remote.
- 1100-50110 (salaries of teachers) decrease due to retirement of 5 teachers
- 1100-50641 (books & other printed media) Ready Math programming
- 2620-50430 (Maintenance/repairs) \$3900 increase is for fire alarm repairs
- 2630-50612 (covid supplies) increase of \$30/student for cleaning. Not aware if any grants will be available for next year
- 2630-50422 (Maintenance Grounds) reduction as maintenance staff is now mowing instead of a hired service
- Employee benefits. Alina requested the share percentage and how many people are on ea plan; what is cost/plan. Numbers of people in each plan were not available but will be provided. HMO monthly rates/percentage of contribution: Single \$892.54 (95%), 2 person \$1781.07 (93%), family \$2404.45 (78%). POS monthly rates/percentage of

contribution: Single \$915.66 (90%), 2 person \$1831.32 (83%), family \$2472.28 (73%). No one is currently on the deductible plan; (4 years ago they issued high deductible plan takers a credit card for use, paid for by the district - this was a huge cost savings to the district).

- 2130-50110 Health salary increase is a step increase
- 2222-50118 Media aide salary is new person
- 2721-50519 (pupil transportation) This was negotiated, extension granted for 2 years, so final year is 2021-2022
- 2900-50231/50232 (retirements) Certified is teachers, non certified is other staff
- 5110/5120 (Debt service) This is the remainder from the renovation from 2004

Motion by Melissa, seconded by Liz to approve \$6,118,708.88. Voting in favor were Liz, Melissa, Andy, Alina, Lois, Michelle, Keith; approved 7-0-0

Food service. This was in house until about 3 years ago, when ERSD took it over. Swasey does not have control of the program, and contact with the person in charge has been minimal. It was supposed to be a flat fee of \$106K, and whatever Swasey earned over they were to keep; Swasey would be responsible for failing equipment. Mollie OKeefe said \$106K should be the max that we we pay. Revenue this year was \$57,544.15, expenses were \$89,359.01 (staff continued to receive full pay even though they were not working); there was a net loss of \$31,814 so we had to pay that to ERSD also. Revenue is a combination of what the state pays and what parents pay. Uncollectibles do exist, but will be covered by bad debt.

Melissa asked that \$19,000 be added to the budget to bring the food service in-house. Motion by Melissa, seconded by Andy to approve \$6,137,708.88 - a 3.06% increase. Voting in favor were Liz, Melissa, Andy; opposed were Alina, Lois, Michelle, Keith, failed 3-4-0. It was expressed by some opposing that this should be a warrant article.

Motion by Melissa, seconded by Liz to approve a warrant article to move \$10,000 from the unreserved fund balance to the Safety & Security Capital Reserve Fund (current fund balance is \$24,932). Question was asked if Covid monies could go into safety & security fund; according to Chris Andriski, not at this time. Voting in favor were Liz, Melissa, Andy, Alina, Lois, Michelle, Keith; approved 7-0-0

Motion by Melissa, seconded by Liz to approve a warrant article to move \$10,000 from the unreserved fund balance to the Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund (current fund balance is \$124,358). Voting in favor were Melissa, Andy, Alina, Lois, Michelle, Keith; voting against Liz; approved 6-1-0

Motion by Melissa, seconded by Liz to approve a warrant article to move \$10,000 from the unreserved fund balance to the Special Education Capital Reserve Fund (current fund balance is \$123,381) Melissa, Liz Andy, Alina, Lois, Michelle, Keith; 7-0-0

Additional warrant articles are expected for Paraprofessionals union contract, and possibly food service.

Other Business

Michelle asked Andy about the BudCom's request to the Selectmen to create an exploratory committee to address employee health benefits. Andy said the Selectmen will take that up after budget season, when the new Select board is voted in.

Liz raised a question regarding the police salary matrix. She will want further clarification on that from Chief Arcieri.

Motion by Lois, seconded by Andy to adjourn. Voting in favor were Alina, Andy, Keith, Liz, Lois, Melissa, Michelle; motion passed 7-0-0; meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Upcoming Meetings

January 18, 2021 at 7 pm - Budget Committee Meeting

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