

Town of Brentwood

Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office

Meeting Minutes January 12, 2022

Present: Michelle Siudut (Chair), Lois DeYoung, Bob Mantegari (Selectemen rep), Alina Arida, Jack Mitchell (Remote), Anthony Philips and Melissa Litchfield

Visitors: Selectman Ken Christiansen, Fire Chief Joseph Bird, Letty Bedard, Jon Morgan, Kim Leo, Jon Bied, Jim Berlo

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Melissa to allow Jack Mitchell to attend remotely, seconded by Lois. Voting in favor were Alina, Anthony, Bob, Melissa, Lois and Michelle; motion passed 6-0-0.

Motion by Lois, seconded by Alina to approve minutes from the December 15, 2021 meeting. Voting in favor were Alina, Anthony, Melissa, Lois, Jack and Michelle; Bob abstained; minutes approved 6-0-1.

Update from Selectmen/School Board

Bob Mantegari (Selectman's Rep) – Expects the General Government budget will be re-opened to increase the line for the Brentwood Newsletter. A Warrant Article is expected to appropriate funds for the Brentwood Newsletter for the remainder of the year. Also expect a warrant article for a ladder truck.

Melissa (School Board Rep) – Next Swasey School Board meeting is January 18, 2022 at 6 pm. The Cooperative Deliberative session will be February 6 at 2 pm (snow date February 10 at 6 pm) at Exeter High School. The public hearing for the Cooperative budget was held which included 2 hours of public comment; student population down 24%; 3 teacher positions that had been cut were put back in the budget; a portion of the GBCS funding that had been cut was reinstated. GBCS/SAU16 relationship was reviewed.

The Swasey School budget will be presented next week. Warrant Articles have not been finalized, but they are hoping for teacher negotiations to be finalized; also anticipate \$10K each for safety, special education and maintenance funds.

Fire Department Budget

Motion by Bob, seconded by Anthony to discuss. Discussion with Chief Bird regarding the 66% increase in the Fire Department budget, which includes 2 additional full time Firemen and substantial pay increases for Chief, firefighters and ambulance personnel. Chief Bird has concerns about delaying search for new personnel, discussion of qualifications of applicants,

Motion by Jack, seconded by Alina to accept the \$804,994.14 Fire Budget. Discussion regarding the two new Firemen positions be removed from Operating Budget and placed in a Warrant Article. After a lengthy discussion, Motion to Close Discussion was brought by Michelle. Voting to approve the Fire Department Budget were Alina, Bob, and Jack; voting against were Anthony, Melissa, Lois and Michelle; motion to approve fire department budget was defeated, 3-4-0.

Bob asked how the Budcom wanted the Selectmen to proceed. Motion by Lois, seconded by Melissa to *recommend* a Warrant Article for 2 new Firemen positions to include salary and benefit costs for the 2 positions. Voting in favor were Alina, Anthony, Melissa, Lois and Michelle; voting against were Bob and Jack. Motion passed 5-2-0.

The Insurance and Benefits budgets which were to be discussed need to be recalculated to not include the 2 full-time fire positions. These budgets will go on next week's agenda.

Visitor Comment

Residents Kim Leo and Jon Morgan shared concerns related to response times if adequate FD coverage is not funded.

Upcoming Important Dates & Meetings

- January 19, 2022 at 6:00 pm: Budcom Meeting at Town Office
- February 6, 2022 at 2 pm at Exeter High School: Cooperative Deliberative Session
- February 9, 2022 at 6 pm: Budcom Meeting at Brentwood Recreation Department
- February 9, 2022 at 7 pm: Public Hearing at Brentwood Recreation Department
- March 8, 2022: Town Elections
- March 12, 2022 at 9 am: Town Meeting

Adjournment: Motion by Lois, seconded by Bob to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois DeYoung, Secretary