

## Selectboard Minutes

February 6, 2024

Present: Jenn Jones, chair  
Andy Artimovich, vice chair  
Russ Kelly  
Paul Kleinman  
Jon Morgan (via zoom)

At 6pm, Jones called the meeting to order.

Jones turned the meeting over to Chief Ventura and Lieutenant Doty. Ventura thanked everyone for being in attendance. He noted it is an honor to be recognized by peers and supervisors. Doty explained the average person will experience 5-10 traumatic situations in their lifetime. He stated that on average an officer will experience 200 – 400 traumatic experiences in their 25-year career.

Doty explained that on January 14, a medical aid call came in for a resident who had fallen from a ladder. When Officer Kevin Kneeland arrived on scene, he witnessed CPR being performed on the resident. Kneeland verified the resident had no pulse. He retrieved his AED from the car and began working on the patient. Doty added the AED was generously donated by the Exeter Area Lions Club.

Doty explained Kneeland provided the patient with a shock and continued CPR on him until the Brentwood Fire Department arrived on scene. They continued to stabilize the patient in the ambulance before transporting him to the hospital, according to Doty.

Doty shared that the patient walked out of the hospital a few days later. He thanked the fire department for their hard work in saving the life of the resident as well. EMS Captain, Alyssa Cynewski, shared that less than 10% of cardiac arrest patients survive. Doty presented Kneeland with a lifesaving pin and certificate for his quick actions resulting in a life being saved. Cynewski presented fire fighters Trevor Whitby, Grant Quinn, and Charles Fitzgerald from the Brentwood Fire Department with lifesaving award certificates for their work in helping to save a life.

Jones thanked the police and fire departments for allowing the Selectboard and public to be part of the celebration.

The Board signed the payroll and accounts payable summary register.

Artimovich motioned, seconded by Kelly, to allow Morgan to attend remotely. All were in favor.

Artimovich motioned, seconded by Kleinman, to accept the consent agenda which consisted of public minutes from 1/30/2024, non public sealed minutes from 1/30/2024, recreation manifest, appointment slips for Wayne Robinson to continue as road agent, Chief Bird, to continue as Fire Chief, Patrick Marcoux to serve a one-year term as a Conservation Commission alternate, and Rob Wofchuck, to serve a one-year term as a Conservation Commission alternate, the treasurer's report (found at the end of these minutes), and the following building permits:

- Liberty Woods, 5 Shannon Way, Electrical
- River Run Development, 3 Taylor Circle, Building
- Shane Daniels-Roberts & Sabrina Levesque, 31 Stevens Drive, Electrical
- Eric & Catherine Turer, 33 Peabody Drive, Electrical
- Liberty Woods, 5 Shannon Way, Plumbing
- George Sanborn & Linda Scarfogliero, 59 Deer Hill Road, Solar
- Michael Lachance, 51 Haigh Road, Electrical
- Hi-Speed Hockey, 11 Tanya Lane, Solar

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- Robert & Audrey Gerkin, 141 Pickpocket Road, Minor Project
- Brian & Amy Nelson, 59 Spruce Ridge Drive, Solar
- Herbert Stevens & Rebecca Woods, 146 South Road, Electrical
- Laura Braverman, 57 Three Ponds Drive, Building

Artimovich – aye; Morgan – aye; Kelly – aye; Kleinman – aye; Jones – aye.

Jones opened the meeting to public comment at 6:08pm.

Seeing no public comment, Jones closed public comment at 6:09pm.

Dick Chamberlain, Town Moderator, was present to read a prepared letter (found at the end of the minutes). He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as Town Moderator for the last 45 years. Chamberlain received a standing ovation at the completion of his statement.

Becky Dunham, Regional Associations Committee Chairperson, was present to share the decision of the Regional Association. Dunham explained the Regional Association Committee (RAC) met recently to review applications submitted for the 2024 budget year. She added the RAC line item will be moved to the welfare section of the town budget. Dunham explained there were seven applications that were received including a first-time applicant – St. Vincent de Paul. She explained the monetary requests were for the same amounts as in prior years. She added the number of Brentwood residents receiving services was stable for all returning agencies.

Dunham explained that after the review of all materials, the RAC recommends all seven applicants receive funding for 2024 totaling \$17,357 in the following amounts:

- Austin 17 House - \$3,000
- Community Children's Fund - \$1,000
- Rockingham Meals on Wheels - \$2,100
- Southern NH Services - \$5,707
- St. Vincent de Paul - \$1,500
- TASC - \$750
- Waypoint (formerly Richie McFarland) - \$3,300

Morgan asked Dunham if any of the agencies were not fully funded. Dunham responded that Austin 17 House was not awarded the full amount requested as she believes they could have been more forthcoming with information provided in the RAC packet.

Dunham added that St. Vincent de Paul left the requested amount line blank. She explained they gave a number that did not seem to be based on anything specific. Dunham explained they serve about 35 Brentwood residents of the 1137 people served.

Jones asked what services are provided by Southern NH Services. Dunham replied they assist with fuel, electricity, rental vouchers, head start, food, and more. She added the branch used is located in Raymond.

Dunham added there is a plan to make a few minor wording changes to the application packet. She added there is also a plan to explore adding the packet to the website sometime in April or May. Dunham stated she believes the committee has fulfilled their mission over the last 5 years and have offered equitable value to all organizations who have requested funding.

Kelly asked how much Austin 17 House requested. Dunham responded they requested \$5,000.

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Artimovich motioned, seconded by Kleinman, to approve \$17,357 for Regional Association funding in the amount Dunham outlined. Artimovich – aye; Morgan – aye; Kelly – aye; Kleinman – aye; Jones – aye.

Deb Cinnamon, Pickpocket Road, was present to share her thoughts on the Pickpocket Road citizens petition warrant article she submitted. She explained that over the years, the residents of the road have attempted to have traffic slowed down on the road. She shared there have been petitions to stop Waste Management from using that road, the police put up digital signs, and the highway department has posted speed limit road signs. Cinnamon stated that none of that has helped, and the speed of traffic has increased. She added the intention to add speed tables to the road is an effort to curtail tractor trailer traffic, heavy construction trucks, speeding cars, and motorcycles. Cinnamon believes that signs are ineffective.

Cinnamon believes the heavy traffic and construction trucks are breaking down the pavement causing cracks and chunks in the roadway. She added now that the high school has been relocated off Pine Road, there is additional traffic flowing on that road causing increased traffic. Cinnamon stated she no longer feels safe walking her dog. She believes that speed tables are not that expensive to install. She added she believes it will also preserve the road. Cinnamon suggested that drivers are using Pickpocket as a cut through to Pine Road and 111.

Cinnamon believes with the increased use of GPS; more traffic is utilizing Pickpocket. She added those drivers are not paying attention to signage. According to Cinnamon, Wayne Robinson, road agent, is supportive of speed tables. She explained that Robinson stated speed bumps would be difficult with plowing. She stated speed tables are very effective.

Cinnamon stated that Durham and Portsmouth have been successful using speed tables. She added that the idea for speed tables occurred to her after visiting Washington DC.

Jones stated the board received an email from Eliza Stewart MacDougall and her husband on Pickpocket Road. She stated she believes the email echoed what Cinnamon had shared. Jones noted the email stated there was an electronic sign in use for some time that did not seem to make a difference.

Cinnamon stated from the audience that she believes speed tables could solve the problem and ultimately save the town money “in the long run”. She noted the price is \$1,500 which she believes is not much money.

Linda Saunders, Pickpocket Road, shared she moved to the road about 8 years ago. She added she walks her dog on the road while wearing brightly colored clothing for visibility. Saunders shared that over the last week, she witnessed a near collision twice near Rowell Road and Pickpocket. She explained other issues she has had including being passed while doing the speed limit. Saunders pointed out that more drivers seem to be distracted and in a rush. She noted there are several blind curves on Pickpocket. She stated she is a concerned citizen and supports implementing speed tables on Pickpocket for the safety of everyone.

Garin Daly, Pickpocket Road, stated he moved to his home in 2020. He added that he is from the Boston area where speed tables are common in densely populated areas. He believes it makes it easier for residents to live in peace. Daly noted that Pickpocket is a cut through road. He added the road has bicyclists, horses, and families on it. Daly believes the town should be more proactive and use Pickpocket as a test ground on how to slow traffic down. Daly stated he has seen speed tables be successful in Somerville, Massachusetts. He added it is inexpensive.

Chief Ventura, police chief, came to the table. He stated he sympathizes with the residents of Pickpocket Road. He notes speed tables do work in Durham, in Somerville, and on the small streets of Portsmouth. He does not believe speed tables will work on the streets of Brentwood. Ventura noted that at a quick estimate, there would be a need for about 20 speed tables on Pickpocket to begin to control the speed of those using the road.

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Ventura noted that speed tables will prevent first responders from getting where they need to go as quickly and safely as possible. He added plowing will take twice the time with speed tables. Ventura added that speed tables work well in congested areas. He noted Pickpocket is not a congested area. There was verbal disagreement from the audience. Jones asked for the comments from the audience not to occur. She added the board will not be voting because there is no monetary appropriation for this warrant article.

Ventura stated he does not want residents to be upset at Town Meeting when he cannot support the speed tables. He added they do not support the function of the police or fire departments. He noted that every second counts when police or fire respond to a call. Ventura noted there are a number of anecdotal stories about near accidents. He added he does not believe it is a stroke of luck or God that more accidents do not occur. He stated he believes it is because people do actually watch out. Ventura added that truck drivers are not evil people. He stated some of the truckers have work on that road. Ventura explained, his department tries to patrol and enforce as much as they can for thru truck drivers. He added there are 17 square miles of Brentwood to patrol.

Ventura added signs are put up, cars are stopped and saturated patrols are done. He added that he cannot support speed tables. He also shared he will pull data on any accidents involving pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles on Pickpocket and supply them to residents for Town Meeting. Ventura will also pull information on all speed complaints from residents. He stated he has no intention of hiding any data. He added that fire, police, and highway will be more than willing to work with the residents with whatever tools they have.

Artimovich asked Ventura if there was any speed data from the sign. Ventura responded there is no data as the speed sign is not a recording sign. He added he hopes to apply for a grant to purchase speed data signs.

Kelly stated he believes overall there is an issue with speeding in town. He added Middle Road and South Road have speeding issues. Kelly asked if the Selectboard has requested the police for specific patrols in the past. He asked if the Selectboard puts a point of emphasis on increasing the patrol for specific items. Ventura responded that any warning or education you can do is always a benefit. Kelly thanked Ventura for being open to conversations about issues.

Ventura stated there are speeding cars everywhere. He shared his department does the best they can with the resources they have to patrol as much as they can. He added the department is always open to ideas. Kelly suggested a speed limit sign similar to the one near the jail might be a solution.

Jones asked Jeff Collins, highway department, if he had any comments. He stated Robinson was looking into some information for Town Meeting.

Jones summarized the BRC Safer Access Road topic. She explained there was a safety issue raised about the current road that serves 2 directional traffic and as a pedestrian walkway. Jones explained the board decided to encumber some funds to address that safety concern. She added because it was a non-budget line project there was discussion about how to best record it in the budget.

Karen Clement, Town Administrator, responded the cost of the road and the total encumbrance already voted was \$94,500. She added the board had approved a \$2,800 encumbrance that Robinson had requested bringing the total encumbrance to \$97,300 from the highway budget. Clement explained after the 2023 budget was closed and all expenses were paid, \$98,260 remained in the highway summer budget. Jones responded that there was no longer a need to pull from the various budgets. Clement confirmed that.

Kleinman asked about the additional \$4,000. Clement responded that was coming out of the Economic Development budget from their remaining \$7,000. Morgan added that cost is for surveying work at the Recreation campus. Jones stated she believes the issue brought forward by Budget Committee was that if money was going to be pulled from various lines it

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creates a continuity issue for the budget for the following year.

Letty Bedard, Middle Road, clarified the request she made was as a resident not as a budget committee member. She explained it did come up at a Budget Committee meeting, however, she asked the question as a resident. Jones thanked her for her clarification. Bedard explained that for clarity and continuity, having the full cost of the project in one line made more sense. Clement responded that the line item will be overspent, but the highway budget will not be overspent. Bedard responded that even if that one budget was overspent, the board would know the reason and the rest of the budget would be able to absorb that overspending. Jones stated she believes the prior Selectboard's had a reluctance to overspend any particular budget. Clement confirmed that was the case. Jones stated she feels the board is working more toward clarity and continuity. She asked if any board members felt strongly about handling unexpected projects being put into one particular line.

Morgan stated he understands the logic and rationale. He added he has hesitation to do it that way. He explained that if the funds had not been available, there is a chance the project might not have been proposed in that timeframe. Morgan added that overspending the highway budget is still not an accurate reflection of the budget. Jones responded that she believes it is 2 separate issues – one is in the planning stages and the other is the accounting/housekeeping. She believes it is two sides of the coin.

Morgan expressed that he does not want this project to skew numbers in the future. He believes that also has a distorted effect. Artimovich responded that if the project comes out of only one line item in a budget, the skewing would be less. Artimovich argued the cleanest way to handle it would be to have a separate “special projects” line item.

Morgan asked Bedard her thoughts on having a \$1 special projects line item and overspent on an annual basis. Bedard responded she believed it would be fine. She added she is not sure how DRA would view it. Morgan wondered if it could solve both issues. Clement added there is a line item called “expenditure offset” in the general government budget. She checked to see if it was funded with \$1 in the 2023 budget.

Jones asked if Morgan would be opposed to using the expenditure offset line for special projects. Bedard questioned how people would know what the money was spent on. Jones responded it would depend on how many special projects there were. Bedard asked how a special project would be defined. Artimovich stated he believes this was an off year where a large amount of money was spent for a large project with funds being taken from more than one line.

Bedard stated that when the highway building was being done, money was taken from more than one line item stating it was a similar situation. Clement stated the highway building was paid for through Capital Reserve Funds and ARPA money. Artimovich suggested Bedard might be referring to the salt shed.

Jones asked Clement what she learned about that particular line. Clement responded that the expenditure offset line was not funded in 2023 and the prior year encumbrance in the government buildings was also not funded. Clement suggested lumping a project into one of those lines going forward.

Jones suggested not making any changes for this year, but going forward if faced with a similar situation changes could be made. She noted there were small encumbrances that went into the respective budgets. She added this was a unique safety issue that was addressed by the board.

Kleinman stated he believed the idea was that there was money in the road construction budget. Jones confirmed that is the case now. She added when the project was first considered, all of the invoices for highway were not yet in. As a result, Clement looked elsewhere for funds if the highway budget could not absorb the full cost of the project, Jones explained.

Bedard questioned if a new accounting software would be easier to handle situations like this. Clement responded possibly.

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She added that our representative at BMSI is retiring at the end of the month. Clement explained it may speed up the process of switching to new accounting software.

Jones shared the board received a resignation letter from part-time police officer Josh Turner. She read that after 19 years with the Brentwood Police Department, Turner has decided to resign to spend more time with his family. He thanked the Town of Brentwood for the opportunity to serve them.

Artimovich motioned, seconded by Kleinman, to accept the resignation of Josh Turner. Artimovich – aye; Morgan – aye; Kelly – aye; Kleinman – aye; Jones – aye.

Artimovich commended Turner for all his work on the Steven Arkell memorial, scholarship, and road race.

Clement outlined the petition warrant article “to raise and appropriate a lump sum of \$17,250 to provide funding to Brentwood Newsletter, Inc. for printing, postage, and distribution costs of 11 issues of the Brentwood Newsletter from April 2024 through March 2025. If approved by the legislative body at Town Meeting, payment shall be disbursed to Brentwood Newsletter, Inc. no later than March 29, 2024. (Majority vote required).

Clement stated the petition had 25 signatures and will be put forward to Town Meeting. She added that it was forwarded to Artimovich so he could bring it to the Budget Committee last night. Clement believed Budget Committee had voted not to recommend the petition. Artimovich confirmed that was correct. Clement explained that because the warrant article is for appropriation of funds, the board would need to take a vote to recommend or not recommend the warrant article.

Jones reminded people the financial relationship with the Newsletter was severed on the advice of Town Counsel because the town could not legally control the content being published due to it being a private non-profit with its own board. Kelly added the discussion of facts are recorded on YouTube and he encouraged people to view that ahead of Town Meeting.

Kleinman voiced his concern with the wording of the warrant article in having to pay for issues before the service is provided. He added he does not support funding a private nonprofit publication as a fiduciary of the town. Jones offered clarification on the warrant article. She added that even if the warrant article passes, there is no obligation by the Selectboard to spend the money and the date is unenforceable.

Kelly suggested with the new website and available email updates, it be considered that something be published on the town website. He again suggested people read Seacoast online articles, watch the YouTube videos and read the minutes surrounding all the newsletter negotiations.

Morgan motioned, seconded by Kelly, to not recommend the warrant article petition to raise and appropriate \$17,250 to fund the Brentwood Newsletter. Artimovich – aye; Morgan – aye; Kelly – aye; Kleinman – aye; Jones – aye.

Clement read the next citizen petition warrant article. “Shall the following provisions pertaining to elections be adopted? All voting shall be by paper ballot and all ballots shall be hand counted only, rather than by use of optical scanning or any other types of programmable electronic counting devices.” This shall constitute a return to hand counting ballots and the immediate discontinuance of all electronic voting machines and electronic devices authorized for use by trial in RSA 656:40. Shall this article be passed, it shall be enacted by the town of Brentwood immediately.

Clement stated there are 25 confirmed signatures. Morgan asked if those 25 people would be volunteering to count. Clement responded that she believes that will be asked at Town Meeting. Additionally, she noted that none of those who have signed the petition have attended any of the ballot testing sessions.

Clement shared the last warrant article received is Yes Means yes. “The vote of the legally-convened legislative body at the

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annual Brentwood, NH Town Meeting shall be adhered to and faithfully executed by the Selectboard.” Clement confirmed it had 25 verified signatures.

Jones asked if this warrant was potentially not legal. Clement confirmed that was correct. Kleinman believes it is not something that would not need to be put up for vote. He continued by stating there is no legal effect. He added there is case law that does not support the language. Jones responded that she believes the board has to allow the warrant to move forward, but it is unenforceable.

Clement offered her opinion that this is an advisory article and is not binding. She suggested the most risk adverse option would be to put it forward on the warrant. Kleinman added it has no legal effect. He read from an article from NHMA suggesting the Selectboard put forth a warrant that has no legal standing. Clement stated counsel will review the warrant ahead of Town Meeting.

Clement stated there is a draft of the Report of the Selectboard 2023. She asked for input. It was decided board members would take 24 hours to review it and send suggestions to Clement. Jones stated she suggests adding the percentage into the report in reference to the tax rate. Kelly stated that barring any major changes, he supports the document as written.

Clement presented the board with an appointment for Stephanie Kizza to replace Ken Christiansen as the transportation representative to RPC. She explained the Planning Board has made the recommendation for Kizza to serve in this capacity.

Kleinman motioned, seconded by Artimovich, to name Stephanie Kizza as Brentwood’s transportation representative to RPC to serve a two-year term. Artimovich – aye; Morgan – aye; Kelly – aye; Kleinman – aye; Jones – aye.

Artimovich shared that Budget Committee reconsidered the condensed Capital Reserve Fund warrant article last night. Budget Committee voted to recommend that warrant article. He stated Selectboard and Budget Committee budgets are equal.

Artimovich added that that the Budget Committee saw three warrant articles from the School Board – one for solar panels, one for IT Hardware, and the third for Special Education. He noted there is a Public Hearing on Monday at 6:30pm at the Recreation Center.

Jones stated the School Board warrant articles will be voted on, on Wednesday, March 6 at 6pm. Clement requested Bedard, or someone else on the School Board, let the Supervisors of the Checklist know about that meeting.

Artimovich stated that Conservation Commission is meeting tomorrow instead of next week.

Morgan requested the board speak about the email they received regarding Mill Road traffic. He explained there was an email sent about concerns of ongoing safety and road congestion issues near the construction area off of Mill Road. Morgan wants it to be brought to the attention of folks who can “take action”, if necessary.

Clement responded that she received an email from a resident on Fellows Road, near Mill Road last Thursday. She forwarded it to Kip Kaiser, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement and Chief Ventura. She added she also spoke with Robinson that morning. Robinson stated to Clement that there is no excessive road damage. She added Robinson explained that Falzone will be covering the cost of upgrades to the road. Kaiser reported to Clement that everything was compliant, and he had no further concerns. Ventura did a directed patrol to be sure construction vehicles were not impeding traffic or emergency vehicles. Clement added that Ventura confirmed the construction vehicles were not impeding traffic.

Clement added she received another email this morning regarding traffic. She explained she forwarded it Ventura because it was traffic related. Clement explained it was reported to her there would be extra directed patrols in the area. It appears they

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were just loading and unloading materials, according to Clement. She added there are no accidents or detours, but the PD will keep an eye on the area to be sure traffic and emergency vehicles are not being impeded.

Kelly offered kudos to the Communications Committee for the launch of the new website. Clement stated Lewendon and Bedard have been available every day to assist with questions or issues. Jones stated she loves the calendar feature.

Kelly shared that Energy & Efficiency has an opening. He shared it has been published on the town Facebook and town's website. The applications will be accepted until February 28 for an alternate member.

Morgan stated the Rec Commission has an opening. Applications are being accepted until February 23.

Kelly shared he received input from a resident that believes the ZBA is allowing variances that appear to be liberal in the interpretation. He explained he has spoken with Glenn Greenwood, Town Planner. Kelly will be getting more information from Greenwood. Kelly added he may have a recommendation to the board based on the information he receives.

Kleinman shared at the last Planning Board meeting, the final conditional use permit was issued for the Prescott project at the former location of the Castles. He explained it would be a long process because there are a number of federal permits that need to be obtained. He added it could be 18 months for the conditions to be met.

Kleinman stated the Planning Board also spoke about the highway audit report for Route 125 and South Road. He read the following email addressed to William Lambert at DOT from Kristen Aldred, Planning Board Chair. "The Town of Brentwood Planning Board (Board) received a copy of the Nov. 2023 draft Road Safety Audit for the Intersection of NH 125 and South Road, prepared for NHDOT by Hoyle Tanner. On behalf of the Board, I am writing in support of the urgent need for safety improvements at the intersection of Route 125 and South Road.

The intersection of 125 and South Road has been repeatedly identified as a safety concern. In a community survey conducted by the Board for the Town's Master Plan, residents identified the intersection as a community priority, citing accidents and fatalities. At the 2023 community meeting regarding the intersection, we heard from community members and even law enforcement officers that the intersection is dangerous and best avoided.

Please also note that a 2020 Traffic Impact and Access Study completed for a proposed commercial development concluded that the intersection, "...meets all of the volume-related signal warrants utilizing 2019 volumes which means that, independent of the project, a traffic signal is recommended to be installed at this location." (See attached.) While that project did not move forward, commercial property at the intersection is active on the market. Continued development along route 125 can be expected to increase traffic volumes above the rate of population growth in Brentwood.

Brentwood's annual Town Meeting is Saturday, March 16. The Board would like to provide an update on the status of the State's assessment and plans for this intersection, including any plans for a public meeting or other opportunities for public input on the Road Safety Audit.

Please contact me with any information the Board can share with residents at the March 16 meeting."

Kelly followed up with a lighting issue he brought up at the last meeting. Kleinman responded that it was brought up at the last Planning Board meeting because there is a dark skies ordinance. He added he spoke with the property owner. Kleinman added there is a security concern, but the property owner stated he has adjusted the angle of the lighting as requested.

Clement shared that the fire department went on a call last week. She explained the resident was displaced from her home. She defined it as an "all hands on deck" situation and all departments went above and beyond. Chief Bird reached out to

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Clement for assistance in getting housing for the resident. She explained the resident had a cat and they could not find a safe place for the cat for the night. Clement explained Planning Board Administrative Assistant, Jillian Benedix, took the cat home for the night until accommodations could be made at a boarding house. She added that Mitchell Animal Hospital assisted with providing shots for the cat and Corporal Spitalere assisted with getting the resident to the motel accommodations. Clement said it was great to see all the departments going above and beyond.

Jones reminded everyone that on February 20, the Selectboard will be having an SB2 hearing. Immediately following the hearing, Steve Dawson on behalf of the Communications Committee, will be doing a presentation on understanding the budget versus the tax rate.

Jones added there will be childcare available from 8:30-12:30 the day of Town Meeting.

Jones shared her husband will be building two new ballot boxes with the goal of speeding up the secret ballot voting process by having 4 ballot boxes.

Dunham asked if there was a chance the Recreation Department could offer rides to seniors to get to Town Meeting. Clement responded that Andy Gray, the recreation director, would be unavailable to drive the van because he will be overseeing the child care at Town Meeting. She stated she would discuss the possibility with him.

At 7:47pm, Artimovich motioned, seconded by Kelly, to enter non-public for legal. Artimovich – aye; Morgan – aye; Kelly – aye; Kleinman – aye; Jones – aye.

At 7:58 pm Artimovich motioned, seconded by Kelly, to come out of non public and seal the minutes. Artimovich – aye; Morgan – aye; Kelly – aye; Kleinman – aye; Jones – aye.

At 7:58pm, Artimovich motioned, seconded by Kelly, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamera Peek

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WEEKLY TREASURER'S REPORT				
<b>DATE:</b>			<b>2/6/2024</b>	
<b>General Fund:</b>		<b>TD BANK</b>		
Previous Balance:		8,211,816.44		
Deposits:		89,818.76		
Payroll:		36,905.65	DDP: \$36,905.65	
			CHK: \$	
FICA:		8343.47		
A/P:		948,579.54	Reg A/P Cks \$67,447.54	NHRS \$
			Swasey \$232,200.00	CO-OP: \$648,932.00
Transfer to REC CC				
Voided Check		45.00		
Transfer to Conservation Acct				
Account Balance:		7,307,851.54		
Interest Earned YTD:		18,592.93		
<hr/>				
Joyce A. Gallant, Treasurer				

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Hello...

I know many of you, but some of you I don't know , so I will introduce myself within the context of what I would like to speak to you about.

Typically when I speak publically I don't like to read my words but what I have to say is to important to me so to be absolutely clear I will read them:

\*\*\*\*\*

I am Dick Chamberlain, and my family and I moved to 15 Crawley Falls Road in 1971.

In 1979 , 8 years later, I ran un-opposed for the position of Brentwood Town Moderator, won , and I have continued to run un-opposed every 2 years since then for the past 45 years,

You might think about that stretch of 45 years this way: when I was elected in 1979 our son Ian was 15. Quite soon that kid will be 60 years old.

The role of the Town Moderator, somewhat simply, is first to be absolutely neutral in all things : I have never put political signs in my front yard, nor written political notes to any media, and only 2 or 3 times at Town Meeting I have handed the gavel to the Assistant Moderator so that I could speak at the floor mike to an issue,

The primary work of the Town Moderator , working closely with Town Clerk Daphne, is to create and Chair Candidate's Night,( 2/15 ) - Supervise all Elections ( 4 this year ), and Moderate Town Meeting.

I am telling you all this because last Friday at 5 PM when the sign-up for Town officers was concluded,,,I had intentionally not put my name on the Ballot for Town Moderator for the next 2 years.

Here is why :

A year or more ago I started to feel that Brentwood needed a much younger TM who could help carry Brentwood into its future for hopefully many years, The person needed to be consistently, enormously neutral. They could not be a public advocate for any political party. They could not have ANY axe to grind. They needed to be able to actually listen to what others were saying, etc. They had to resist being dragged into...whatever.

I asked 6 or 8 different Brentwood folk representing the Select Board and other Town departments , inviting 3 of them to lunch at my home, to give me suggestions...and everyone suggested the same person,,,and that was Melissa Hanlon. Melissa had been on our Budget

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Committee for a number of years , professionally she is a litigating attorney for 20 years with the same firm in Concord, is currently Chair of the firms Executive Committee. And is known to have the ability to be absolutely neutral when necessary,

I appointed Melissa as Brentwood's Assistant Moderator and for the past year, she has easily filled in in many Election roles , and got her Baptism by Fire at last year's Town Meeting when dehydration got the best of me. and our Fire Chief Joe felt it best for me to go by ambulance to the Exeter Hospital, and suddenly Melissa took over around WA 14 of I think 21 WA's and did a great job.

I will conclude by saying the following:\* Since Melissa is now the only person running for TM on the ballot I don't have to be neutral and can say..Melissa has my vote !

My term as Town Moderator concludes in March with Supervision of the Town/School Election and Moderating our Town Meeting.

Some concluding thoughts:

\*We Brentwood Citizens and I as Town Moderator have been enormously helped by our Police Department and I have been especially thankful to have dealt with Election security details with past Chiefs of Police Wayne, Ellen, Dan and now John.

\* My friend, our Town Clerk Daphne, could not be more knowledgeable about Elections...many of us in Brentwood know that , and the staff at our New Hampshire Secretary of State's office also knows that.

\* We are fortunate to have at one end of our Town Office Joyce and Heather as Daphne's staff...and at the other end of the building Karen Clement as Town Administrator.

Friends...I have increasingly loved serving the people of Brentwood in the position of Town Moderator for these past 45 years and I believe we are enormously fortunate to have Melissa as our future Town Moderator.

Dick Chamberlin