

**Town of Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee**  
**Minutes of February 5, 2024 regular meeting, held at Brentwood Town Office**

*Members present:* Jack Mitchell (chair), Michelle Siudut (secretary), Anthony Phillips, Gabbie Kelly, Andy Artimovich (Selectboard rep), Letty Bedard (Swasey rep)

*Members absent:* Alina Arida

*Guests:* Doug Cowie, Steve Dawson, Karen Clement

Jack called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the January 15 2024 meeting could not be approved, as there were not enough Committee members present, who were in attendance at that meeting.

**Selectmen's Report** - No update

**Swasey School Board Report** - Letty Bedard

Health Insurance. Previously we questioned if we can pool town employees on school health insurance plan - no update.

Swasey Warrant articles. There will be 4 warrants; this Committee has already approved the Swasey budget. The remaining 3 warrants follow:

- Solar Array bond. Request is for \$850,000 for the bond and an additional \$21,250 for the interest-only payment for the first year. The \$850K is in the middle of 2 estimates (Revision Energy, Barrington Power) received. There will be a 30% rebate available from the federal government, which is currently available through 2033. First year expense would be \$40K; year 2 we should get rebate of \$255K (or 30% of total project cost); then net expense of \$40K annually for 8 years. This is for approximately 300 panels, which will go on various sections of the roof. Gym roof would need upgrades prior to installation, which are already included in the CIP. The panels are expected to power more than what the school needs especially during summer; the extra would be sold back. If approved, RFPs would go out and the goal to install would be summer 2025. When the rebate is received the school can hold a hearing to determine what to do with the \$, if they do not hold a hearing they can use the \$ to offset the expenses for that year/add it to the unreserved fund balance. Question if a CRF could be created to be used to pay down the debt; Letty said potentially but the Board did not want to establish one at this time. Question about EMF and the potential hazard to students - it was stated there is no data for that; Jack asked for further information. Question as to disposing the panels - there is a 25yr warranty and a 40yr expected lifespan; currently companies offer a small buyback; disposal options are expected to be better by the end of their life cycle. Swasey cannot overspend their budget; discussion of amounts Swasey has returned to the town in past years. Motion by Anthony to table until we can get a CRF; seconded by Michelle; motion to table failed 3-3. Motion by Andy, seconded by Letty to approve; passed 4-2.
- Special Education Trust Fund. \$20,000 which would be from unreserved fund balance, no additional tax impact. (If there is no unreserved fund balance, this would not be funded.) This year there was an unexpected need, at a cost of \$100,000. Motion by Gabbie, second by Andy to approve \$20K from unreserved fund balance; passed 6-0.

- Establish a Technology Capital Reserve Fund, and fund with up to \$10,000 from unreserved fund balance. (If there is no unreserved fund balance, this would not be funded.) Motion by Letty, seconded by Andy; passed 6-0.

### **Warrant Articles**

Warrant article to fund Brentwood Newsletter with \$17,250. This amount is for printing and postage only. The town approved the money last year, but the Selectboard did not fund. Discussion about history, oversight, etc. Motion by Michelle, second by Anthony to approve; failed 2-3-1.

Andy made a motion to reconsider warrant article 3, which is the combination of 5 CRFs (IT Hardware \$30K, Revaluation \$25K, Building Repairs \$50K, Vehicle Replacement \$50K, Bridge Repair \$25K). The BOS would like them grouped together in order to streamline the voting process at Town Meeting. Motion by Andy, seconded by Letty to fund \$180,000 for the 5 CRFs collectively in one warrant article; passed 4-2.

### **Old/Other Business**

Michelle stated the updated bylaws have been posted to the new website.

Michelle asked members to submit individual photos for the Municipal Budget Committee page on the Town website.

Michelle asked the status of the budget documents Letty had been preparing. Letty doesn't feel she can complete them for the hearing next week, but displayed drafts for individual budgets and warrant articles. Michelle requested a copy to publish in the Brentwood Newsletter. Letty will send it to the Committee; Jack/Michelle will review/submit to Brentwood Newsletter.

Motion by Andy to adjourn at 9:07 pm.

**Upcoming Meetings.** The following schedule has been updated since our last meeting.

Feb 12 2024 at 6 pm, Rec Center (snow date Feb 14): Budget Committee Meeting

Feb 12 2024 at 6:30 pm, Rec Center (snow date Feb 14): Budget Committee Public Hearing

Mar 6 2024 at 6 pm, Swasey School gym: Swasey School district meeting

Mar 12 2024 from 7 am to 7 pm, Swasey School gym: voting for town offices and co-op

Mar 16 2024 at 9 am, Swasey School gym: Town Meeting

Apr 15 2024 at 6 pm: Budget Committee Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Siudut, Secretary