

**Town of Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee  
Minutes of April 29, 2024 Committee Meeting,  
held at Brentwood Town Office**

*Members:* Jack Mitchell (chair), Michelle Siudut (secretary), Alina Arida, Gabbie Kelly, Kat Niemiroski, Brian Duffy (Swasey rep), Jennifer Jones (selectmen's rep)

Jack called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm; the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Committee members introduced themselves, and reviewed their goals for the year. Jack's focus is on large ticket items; Gabbie would like to pursue including town employees in school health plan and possibly changing our fiscal year to match the school; Jennifer wants to continue to educate the public about tax rates, etc; Alina wants us to ensure the town to be prepared for employee replacement; Michelle wants us to be fiscally responsible for the taxpayers; Kat and Brian, both new to the committee, hope to offer support.

**Committee Organization**

Alina nominated Michelle as Secretary and Jack as Chair; approved unanimously.

Jack reviewed our process for the new members. Budget packets will be distributed to Committee members by email in advance of meetings. There were no questions on our bylaws; signature page was signed by all. We will continue to welcome questions from the public at our meetings. All meetings will be live streamed and recorded. Committee meetings will continue to be held on Monday evenings at 6pm, so long as it does not conflict with School meetings.

**Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Alina, seconded by Michelle, to approve the minutes of the January 15 meeting as amended; approved 3-0-4.

Motion by Gabbie, seconded by Michelle to approve the minutes of the February 12 meeting; approved 3-0-4.

Motion by Gabbie, seconded by Michelle to approve the minutes of the February 12 public hearing, as amended; approved 4-0-3.

**Selectmen's Report** - Jennifer Jones

Chief Ventura does not anticipate need for personnel, will focus on new building.

The remainder of ARPA funds (approximately \$120K) must be appropriated by the end of this year. BOS plans to use them for Capital Improvements, if possible.

BOS is discussing personnel support for Town Admin, Finance, Recreation, Inspectors office, Highway; possibly a shared person for the town office. There is an open position in Highway Department; plow drivers are consistently a need.

BOS plans to set fixed COLA/merit rates in advance of budget season.

**Swasey School Board Report - Brian Duffy**

Regarding the solar project approved in March, the board received RFPs from Revision Energy (\$829K) and Barrington Power (\$662K for only flat surfaces, smaller generation capacity). The board has chosen Barrington Power due to the lower cost, the installation will be completed this summer (a year sooner than Revision), and it will be generating by fall. We will be eligible for a 30% government rebate, which could take 9 months to receive.

**Other Business**

There was discussion about the feasibility of town officials joining the school health insurance. Brian will look further into that possibility with SAU HR. If that won't work, we can look at the possibility of joining with other towns.

Discussion if the at-home audience could post questions during Budget committee meetings. Not at this time.

Jack will arrange our annual site visits to Police, Fire, Rec, Highway, Library, Town Office.

**Upcoming Meetings.**

May 13 2024 at 6 pm: Site Visit at current Police station

June 17 2024 at 6 pm: TBD meeting/site visit

July 22 2024 at 6 pm: TBD meeting/site visit

August 12 2024 at 6 pm: TBD meeting/site visit

September 16 2024 at 6 pm: TBD meeting/site visit

Motion by Gabbie to adjourn; meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Siudut, Secretary