

**Town of Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee  
Minutes of September 16, 2024 Committee Meeting**

*Members present:* Jack Mitchell (chair), Michelle Siudut (secretary), Alina Arida, Kat Niemiroski, Jennifer Jones (BOS rep). *Members absent:* Brian Duffy (excused), Gabbie Kelly  
Guests: Letty Bedard, Doug Finan, Bruce Stevens

Jack called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Jennifer, seconded by Alina to approve the April 9 2024 minutes; approved 5-0.

Motion by Jennifer, seconded by Kat to approve the May 13 2024 minutes as amended; approved 4-0-1.

Motion by Kat, seconded by Jennifer to approve the June 17 2024 minutes; approved 3-0-2.

Motion by Jennifer, seconded by Kat to approve the July 22 2024 minutes; approved 4-0-1.

Motion by Kat, seconded by Michelle to approve the August 12 2024 minutes as amended; approved 3-0-2.

**Selectboard Report - Jennifer Jones**

The Board has begun to discuss budgets; will be setting COLA/merit at tomorrow night's meeting. The Board has asked all departments to put forth a preliminary budget so as to provide an overall projected total budget at the start of budget season.

**Municipal Building Update - Letty Bedard**

The Municipal Building Committee would like to provide as much information as possible ahead of town meeting. They are preparing an FAQ to post on the Town Projects page of the town website. The Committee suggested these questions: \*why is the current building unsatisfactory/what can be done to update it; \*location selection (Rec Center, Prescott Road, Mill Road, Fire Station, Scrabble Road); \*time frame of putting this to the voters (2025?); \*amount of money that has been put into the current building; \*how much more are we investing? \*do we need to re-house the PD *and* the town offices; could the town offices stay in the current building?; \*what would happen to the current town office? It is commercially zoned, so expected to sell at \$1.2-1.5M.

There is a draft floor plan of a 21,000 sq ft building on the town website. This is more than the town needs; a more appropriate expectation is 16,000 sq ft. Cost estimates are \$400-800/sq ft. If we borrowed \$12M today for 30 years, the tax impact on a \$400K home would be \$360/yr. All meetings/minutes, etc regarding the Municipal Building Committee are on the town website. The Committee will meet next Tuesday at 1:30pm. Email the Chief or Lt with any questions.

Bruce Stevens asked what other bonds are currently outstanding. He stated that only \$250K of the \$3M Open Space Bond has been utilized, and the Open Space Committee is working hard to use more.

The bond for the Library addition matured in 2023; a Land purchase bond will mature in 2025; a conservation easement and the Prescott Road bond will mature in 2027.

### **Old Business**

We have completed 4 department visits, we have 1 left. They have been informative.

Discussion about better Informing the voters PRIOR to town meeting. Discussed ways of improving the Public Hearing; it was suggested that the Hearing be held at the Town Office, in order to livestream. The Communications Committee has disbanded, however, Letty and some others are willing to develop materials. Michelle said any materials can be distributed through the Brentwood Newsletter. Discussion that the town budget is only part of the tax bill – what can we do to better inform voters about other meetings (school deliberative, Swasey) in which voters can have a say.

The Capital Improvements Plan recommendations have been given to Glen Greenwood.

Jack stated the Budget Committee will continue to post our agenda and packets on the website in advance of each meeting. Public comment will be taken after budget discussion/but before Committee votes. Additional public comment will be heard prior to adjournment.

### **New Business**

It was suggested to have larger budgets presented earlier in the process, so sticker shock doesn't come at the end of budget season. If not this year, maybe next year.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Sep 23 2024 at 6 pm: Site Walk at Library

Oct 21 2024 at 6 pm: Regular Meeting

Oct 28 2024 at 6 pm: Regular Meeting

Nov 18 2024 at 6 pm: Regular Meeting

Nov 25 2024 at 6 pm: Regular Meeting

Dec 9 2024 at 6 pm: Regular Meeting

Dec 16 2024 at 6 pm: Regular Meeting

Motion by Alina to adjourn; meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Siudut, Secretary