

Town of Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee
Minutes of November 25 2024 Meeting held at Town Office

Members present: Jack Mitchell (chair), Michelle Siudut (secretary- attending remotely), Alina Arida, Kat Niemiroski, Brian Duffy (Swasey rep), Jennifer Jones (BOS rep)

Member Absent: Gabbie Kelly (excused)

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

Motion by Jack, seconded by Jennifer, to allow Michelle to participate remotely; Alina-aye, Jennifer-aye, Brian-aye, Kat-aye, Jack-aye

Minutes. Motion by Alina, seconded by Kat, to approve the November 18 minutes as amended; Alina-aye, Jennifer-aye, Brian-aye, Kat-aye, Michelle-aye, Jack-aye; motion passed 6-0.

Selectboard Update - Jennifer Jones

Fire Department budget will be discussed tonight.

Re-valuations will occur in 2025, with completion expected by summer. The tax rate for 2025 will be based on the new assessments. It is expected that valuations will increase, causing a decrease in the tax rate. It is unclear who will conduct the re-valuations. Jack would like to speak with the assessor once the company has been chosen.

Swasey update - Brian Duffy

Brian was asked to find out about expected revenue from solar panels.

The SAU/Coop budget has not yet been drafted. Budget Advisory committee meetings are posted.

Commission of Ed re education changes?? -

Budgets

Recreation - presented by Andy Gray, Rec Director. There will be a warrant article to change the part-time seasonal camp director to a full-time program coordinator position. The full time person would be to sustain what they are doing, not necessarily to do more; this will be discussed later in the budget season.

Salary increases are 4% for director, 5% for seasonal camp director. The 2024 YTD gross profit \$105,816.84; YTD expenses \$88,837.91. Revolving fund YTD income \$16,978.93.

Motion by Brian, seconded by Kat, to approve \$116,483; an increase of 3.4%; Alina-aye, Jennifer-aye, Brian-aye, Kat-aye, Michelle-nay, Jack-aye; motion passed 5-1.

Jack asked for information about what the revolving account is used for. Andy said it was used for equipment, background checks, among other things. Jack requested a statement of revolving account expenditures. The Rec Department will provide quarterly P&L statements to both the Selectboard and the Budget Committee going forward.

Joint Loss Management - presented by Andy Gray, chair. They meet quarterly for trainings, etc. Motion Brian, seconded by Kat \$241, level funded; Alina-aye, Jennifer-aye, Brian-aye, Kat-aye, Michelle-aye, Jack-aye; motion passed 6-0.

Fire - presented by Chief Bird. There are currently 2 FT firefighters. This budget adds a deputy position and changes the 2 open FT positions to 2 FT LT positions. There are also salary adjustments for other employees. Chief said the Deputy would take over daily operations, taking the Chief off the floor so the Chief can look at grants and do administrative work. The Deputy would train to become Chief when Chief Bird retires. This will help move the department to all full-time. The jail and nursing home increase our call volume. Motion by Alina, seconded by Kat, to approve \$1,297,761, an increase of 28.8%; Alina-aye, Jennifer-aye, Brian-aye, Kat-aye, Michelle-nay, Jack-aye; motion passed 5-1.

Highway - presented by Wayne Robinson. Primary increase is salary lines 4.5% for FT and 4% for Wayne, and FICA/retirement. Motion by Alina, seconded by Brian, to approve \$836,137, an increase of 2.16%; Alina-aye, Jennifer-aye, Brian-aye, Kat-aye, Michelle-aye, Jack-aye; motion passed 6-0.

Snow & Ice - presented by Wayne Robinson. There are 67 miles of road to sand/plow. The State will continue to plow Middle Rd as far as Wayne knows. Over the past 3 years, the actuals have been lower than expected. The sand/salt/cold patch line is being reduced by \$80K, as a CRF for Winter Maintenance was created which currently has \$10-12K. Remaining funds in the sand/salt/cold patch line will be encumbered for that CRF. Motion by Alina, seconded by Kat, to approve \$142,410; a decrease of 38.6%; Alina-aye, Jennifer-aye, Brian-aye, Kat-aye, Michelle-aye, Jack-aye; motion passed 6-0.

Town Administrator. The Selectboard approved \$135,066. This Budget Committee will not vote on this budget at this time.

Old Business

Information on the Budget hearing will be posted in the Brentwood Newsletter in December and January; Stef Lewendon is assisting with this. Discussion about other verbiage used to explain tax increases/tax impact, budget increases, etc. We will work hard to explain our numbers to more accurately represent the numbers presented.

Motion by Brian, seconded by Jennifer, to adjourn; Alina-aye, Jennifer-aye, Brian-aye, Kat-aye, Michelle-aye, Jack-aye; motion passed 6-0.

Upcoming Meetings

Dec 9 2024 at 6 pm: Regular Meeting

Dec 16 2024 at 6 pm: Regular Meeting

Motion by Brian to adjourn; meeting concluded at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Siudut, Secretary