

Selectboard Minutes  
February 25, 2025

Present: Jenn Jones, Chair  
Andy Artimovich  
Jon Morgan via Teams  
Paul Kleinmann  
Letty Bedard

At 6:00pm, Jones called the meeting to order.

The Board signed the payroll and accounts payable summary register.

Artimovich motioned, seconded by Bedard to allow Morgan to participate remotely. Artimovich - aye, Kleinman – aye, Bedard – aye, Jones - aye. Motion passes.

Artimovich motioned, seconded by Bedard, to accept the consent agenda which consisted of public minutes from February 18<sup>th</sup>, non-public minutes from February 18<sup>th</sup>, which are sealed, and the following building permits:

- Jon & Christian Sullivan, 67 Dudley Rd, Plumbing
- Jessica & Billy Huntsman, 9 Tanya Lane, Solar
- The Rocconi Family Rev Trust, 23 Idyllwod Dr, Plan Examination
- Joseph Webster C/O Ruby Builders LLC, 193 North Road, Plumbing
- River Run Development, LLC, 4 Taylor Circle, Plumbing
- Derek & Christine Roberts, 61 Haigh Rd, Solar
- Joseph & Kristen Mann, 81 Lyford Ln, Minor Projects

Artimovich – aye; Morgan – abstained; Kleinman -aye; Bedard – aye; Jones - aye. Motion carried.

Bedard motioned to appoint Officer In Charge, Justin Doty to Chief of Police, seconded by Artimovich. Artimovich – aye; Morgan – aye; Kleinman -aye; Bedard – aye; Jones – aye. All in favor, motion carried. Town Clerk, Daphne Woss swore in Chief Doty. The Brentwood Police Department was present to show their support for Chief Doty.

The Town Report was dedicated to Wayne and Kathy St. Hilaire. Woss, read the dedication. The Town Report is available at the Town Clerk’s Office and online, hard copies will also be available at Town Meeting.

At 6:18pm Jones opened the opened the public hearing regarding article 11, the local tax cap.

---

**Article 11 ADOPTION OF LOCAL TAX CAP**

Article 11 ADOPTION OF LOCAL TAX CAP FOR THE TOWN OF BRENTWOOD  
Submitted by Petition

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes (this year’s base), that is higher than the prior year’s actual amount of local taxes raised (last year’s base), adjusted for inflation using the inflation index CPI-U for the Boston-Cambridge-Newton MA-NH area published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the change in population, in accordance with RSA 32:5-b l-b?

Selectboard Minutes  
February 25, 2025

Elizabeth Faria, South Road, stated that she does not know who the petitioner is and asked what the difference between the Consumer Price Index U and Consumer Price Index W is.

Ward Byrne, Rowell Road, stated that he and 4 pages worth of signatures signed the petition, and that Jim Hajjar could answer questions.

Jim Hajjar, Mohawk Lane, suggested that anyone wanting to know the difference between the CPI-U and CPI-W go to the US Bureau of Labor Statistic website. Hajjar clarified that the State specifically says CPI-U.

E. Faria, had questions regarding the CPI-U and the timing of when this would take effect.

Rob Wofchuck, Peabody Dr, had questions regarding how revenue changes and grants would affect the tax cap.

J. Hajjar stated that he met with the Town Administrator, Town Clerk, NH Department of Revenue, NHMA attorneys before deciding to support this petition warrant article. Hajjar had a slide show presentation that he shared with the Selectboard and attendees, Hajjar explained the formula used to calculate the tax cap and that it only applies to the municipal portion of taxes. Hajjar had comments regarding using the fund balance to pay down the tax rate.

Jones stated this law was changed in October 2024, no towns have adopted this as currently written. Jones explained using the fund balance to pay down the tax rate.

Byrne, had comments regarding the intent of the article. Stated that his understanding of the article is to stop the Board from using the unused fund balance to pay down the tax rate and to keep the tax rate increases inline with inflation.

There was a discussion regarding using the fund balance to pay down the tax rate.

Matt Lipinski, Middle Road, confirmed that this would not affect this year's tax number and asked for clarification regarding Hajjar's slides.

E. Faria asked what was left over from the 2024 budget.

Laura Hajjar, Mohawk Lane, had comments regarding the fund balance and stated that Brentwood "has a habit of misusing our reserve funds." Hajjar also stated that she believes most towns do not use their fund balance to pay down taxes.

Jones clarified that unused funds cannot be used without warrants and that the Town has operated this way for the past 13 years under the guidance of the previous Town Administrator. Jones stated that the Board did not misuse the fund balance, during Covid there was a larger fund balance than normal and the Board was advised to pay down the taxes more than usual. After some back and forth, L. Hajjar agreed that the Board was given bad advice. Jones stated that the Board is open to suggestions on how to utilize the fund balance.

There was a discussion that two separate issues are being discussed, the tax cap warrant article and the use of the fund balance.

J. Hajjar, stated he does not believe most towns use their fund balance the way Brentwood does.

Bedard stated that using the fund balance for one time purchases is something the Board can do now, and is in fact doing this year. The Board was unaware the public would prefer using the fund balance this way.

Selectboard Minutes  
February 25, 2025

Morgan stated that he appreciates the discussion and hopes that residents are aware that the State has shifted some financial responsibilities to municipalities.

Anthony Phillips, Lake Road, stated that this will not change anything materialistically and that the budget committee never gave the selectboard guidance.

Jones stated that the language of any warrant article can be amended as long as the intent of the warrant article does not change.

Jim Michaud, Route 125, stated that the town's people are not ok with paying these taxes.

E. Faria had comments about whether or not this article was binding.

Jones clarified that the wording is advisory, it is not an appropriation, so it is binding.

Kate Locke-Parks, Middle Road, had comments regarding an affordable budget.

Chet Miller, Dudley Road, explained CPI-U and CPI-W and comments regarding the budget, how it should be voted on and that the fund balance is overbudgeting.

J. Hajjar, stated that the formula for calculating the tax cap cannot be changed.

The public hearing was closed at 7:36pm.

Jones opened public comment at 7:41.

Chief Doty thanked the Board, his Officers and the Town residents for their support.

Jones closed public comment at 7:42.

The Board discussed the frontend loader. Jeremy from John Deere was present. The new machine being discussed is \$165,500 and can be here as soon as tomorrow. After some discussion Kleinman motioned to amend the warrant article to change the purchase price to \$165,500, Artimovich seconded. Artimovich – aye; Morgan – aye; Kleinman -aye; Bedard – aye; Jones - aye. Motion carried.

The Board discussed a month-to-month rental with 80% going toward the purchase price. Kleinman motioned to allow Robinson to rent the front-end loader, Morgan seconded. Artimovich – aye; Morgan – aye; Kleinman -aye; Bedard – aye; Jones - aye. Motion carried.

Chief Doty was present to request applying for the highway safety grant for PD enforcement. Bedard motioned to reimburse the Police Overtime line upto \$8200 for the Highway Enforcement Grant seconded by Artimovich. Artimovich – aye; Morgan – abstained; Kleinman -aye; Bedard – aye; Jones - aye. Motion carried.

Selectboard Minutes  
February 25, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Jillian Benedix