

**Town of Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee**  
**Minutes of May 5, 2025 Meeting held at Town Office**

*Members Present:* Jim Hajjar (Chair), Michelle Siudut (Secretary), Kat Niemiroski, Gabbie Kelly, Letty Bedard (Selectboard rep), Dan Hebert (Swasey rep, left at 5:55 pm to go to School meeting)

*Excused absence:* Alina Arida

Jim called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Minutes**

Review of the April meeting minutes was postponed until our next meeting.

**Old Business**

For respect of Rep Turer's time, Hajjar invited him to discuss Old Business item a.

a. SB297 relative to pooled risk management program. Rep Turer said SB297 was created at the request of SOS. It is a complex bill and SOS has submitted an amendment. Municipalities don't HAVE to use risk pools, but most do. They are not actually insurance and do not fall within the parameters of "regular" insurance. SB297 would \*set thresholds for liquidity \*be able to set parameters for the premiums \*empower the state to replace boards of risk pool firms \*require municipalities to pay additional amounts to the pool \*require towns to create CRFs \*if approved it would go into effect 60 days after passage. HealthTrust is the largest of these pools; they have said they would leave the NH market if this bill passes. Other risk pool programs have indicated support for the bill.

HB741 (open enrollment) passed the house; now before the Senate. Bedard asked who pays for the vouchers; Turer was unsure, but will find out.

**Swasey School Report** - Dan Hebert

Solar Bond questions: Bond was set in January on a fixed repayment schedule. The "tax credit" request is \$198,000. We could not apply for credit until panels were active. The request was submitted in April.

**Selectboard Report** - Letty Bedard

\*HB200 regarding tax caps: would retroactively apply to all towns with tax caps. It has passed the house, if you have input contact Sen Gannon.

\*BOS will likely discuss accounting/finance situation at tomorrow's BOS meeting. She will update this Committee at our next meeting.

\*Building Committee meeting tomorrow: 5 RFQs have been received/will be reviewed.

**Old Business**

Hajjar showed a slide presentation on the following topics, which can be viewed on the town website at <https://www.brentwoodnh.gov/files/documents/BudgetCommitteePacket05-05-25072141050525AM1463.pdf>

b. *Review impact warrants that contain clause "from the unreserved fund balance. NO amount to be raised from taxation" on budget, fund balance, tax rate, and tax cap.* Hajjar stated the unreserved funds

that were applied to warrants will be added in as “fund balance voted surplus”, and would be included in the prior year tax commitment. Bedard asked how encumbered funds, such as the encumbered funds for salt, would impact the total appropriations. Hajjar did not know the answer, but will review encumbrances at our next meeting.

c. *Review RSA 32:18 - Limitation of Appropriations (“10% Rule”), and RSA 32:18-a - Legislative Body Override of Limitation of Appropriations (“Override the 10% Rule”) and impact of tax cap.* There had been questions if the 4% cap and/or 10% Rule would impact the future bond required for the Municipal Building. For bonds, if the amount would exceed the 4% cap, the BudCom would have to not approve (to not exceed the 4%), but the legislative body could approve a bond amount.

d. *FY2025 budget estimated tax impact - update based on town meeting. Review tax impact using typical methodology (flat driver) and one other most likely scenario.* Hajjar showed the tax impact that was presented at BudCom hearing (7.1% /\$714 increase); the calculations used for this estimation were prepared in a different manner than had been done in previous years. He then showed examples calculated in the manner as had been done in previous years which showed a higher (12% / \$1,207) increase. Hajjar wants this Committee/BOS to consider informing the residents of a more realistic tax impact than what was presented at the Hearing.

e. *Summary of outstanding municipal bonds (debt obligations) and review future bond payment schedule.* In the interest of time, this item was postponed to the next meeting.

### **New Business**

Hajjar recommended establishing subcommittees. Bedard suggested we open the committees to other residents..

\*Insurance: Hajjar and Siudut will be on this committee. Siudut suggested Ched Miller be invited.

\*Waste Disposal/Recycling: Kelly and Siudut volunteered for this committee.

\*Communication: Niemiroski and Bedard volunteered for this committee

### **Public Comment**

\*Bruce Stevens and Doug Finan wanted to invite BudCom to the Community Housing Forum on May 15 from 5-7pm at the Brentwood Rec. Our town is currently non compliant with NH regulations. This forum hopes to present some options which we can decide on. Bruce Stevens suggested we invite the Town Planner to a future BudCom meeting to discuss this topic.

\*Doug Finan said GreenSnowPro will be presenting at the Conservation Commission meeting next Wednesday, May 14 at 6pm. The program offers alternatives for sand/salt usage while also being more respectful of the environment.

Motion by Bedard, seconded by Siudut to adjourn; meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

**Upcoming Meetings** - meetings are open to the public and livestreamed on Brentwood YouTube channel  
June 9 at 5 pm - Regular Meeting

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Siudut, Secretary