

Town of Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee
Minutes of September 29, 2025 Meeting held at Town Office

Members Present: Jim Hajjar (Chair), Michelle Siudut (Secretary), Alina Arida, Kat Niemiroski, Gabbie Kelly, Dan Hebert (Swasey rep), Letty Bedard (Selectboard rep)

Hajjar called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Motion by Bedard, seconded by Arida to approve the August 18 2025 Town Clerk site walk minutes; approved 4-0-3.

Motion by Hebert, seconded by Bedard to approve the September 8 2025 meeting minutes; approved 7-0.

Motion by Bedard, seconded by Niemiroski to approve the September 25 2025 finance director site walk minutes; approved 5-0-2.

Motion by Niemiroski, seconded by Bedard to approve the September 25 2025 grange building site walk minutes; approved 4-0-3.

Selectboard Report - Letty Bedard

*First budgets (Emergency Management, Conservation, Welfare) will be presented at tomorrow night's BOS meeting.

*Bedard suggested wages be calculated on Jan-Dec basis, but no second.

*Bedard asked departments for more detailed info for each budget

*Building Inspector has been hired

*Candidates being interviewed for TA and Police Chief. Rec Director position not currently being interviewed for.

*Bob Mantegari was appointed interim to fill Morgan's resignation.

Swasey School Report - Dan Hebert

*SAU presented their proposed budget for 2026-2027.

*Swasey budget draft will be presented at October school meeting, next week.

*Hajjar asked if SchoolCare risk pool increases will affect us/SAU16. SAU16 uses HealthTrust, not SchoolCare. Siudut suggested the SAU look into health insurance alternatives as a cost-saving effort.

Budgets

*Hajjar presented a spreadsheet/workbook in which to review departmental budgets, breaking out salaries and related costs in separate columns. Bedard asked the BOS to have individual employees broken out to see total increases to include salary, FICA, retirement, etc.

*Arida requested additional columns to see warrants that were approved for each department.

*Discussion that our review is generally based on trends of past actuals and the desire to see past 2 years actuals. It was noted that we are not certain how accurate last year's actuals were.

*At a recent BOS meeting, the Finance Director recommended that health insurance be included in department budgets. If that cannot happen, request to have an insurance amount allocated to each department for a more accurate awareness of department costs.

*PD Chief Doty created a chart to project what increases will be year after year in the police department.

Old Business

*Compensation Ratio Analysis. Hajjar stated the ratio information specifically for NH municipalities is not available, the only data is for a mix of private and public sector. Hajjar said his point of presenting the ratio was not as a comparison, but simply to show that Brentwood is higher than the national average.

*Health Insurance. Hajjar reviewed discussions about health insurance with Fire Dept. Hajjar will suggest BOS set up a task force with BOS, BudCom, and some department heads to discuss and decide on options. BOS should be getting new insurance rates Oct 7. Bedard is looking at various plans.

New/Other Business

*Reviewed budget schedule

*Discussion about how aggressive the BOS will be in considering meeting the tax cap; their actions will determine this Committee's need to interact with department heads. Bedard suggested BudCom members send questions to her to be addressed in advance of this committee's discussion. Bedard will create a shared document on which we can list our questions.

*Discussion about the CRF for winter maintenance, and getting clarity on what it is for.

Motion by Kelly, seconded by Niemiroski to adjourn; meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Upcoming Meetings - All meetings are open to the public and livestreamed on Brentwood's YouTube channel.

Oct 20 at 6pm: Budget Committee meeting

Oct 27 at 6pm: Budget Committee meeting

Nov 10 at 6pm: Budget Committee meeting

Nov 17 at 6pm: Budget Committee meeting

Dec 8 at 6pm: Budget Committee meeting

Dec 15 at 6pm: Budget Committee meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Siudut, Secretary