

Town of Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee
Minutes of October 27, 2025 Meeting held at Town Office

Members Present: Jim Hajjar (Chair), Michelle Siudut (Secretary), Kat Niemiroski, Letty Bedard (Selectboard rep), Dan Hebert (Swasey rep arrived 5:56pm)
Excused absences: Alina Arida (sick), Gabbie Kelly (out of town)

Hajjar called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Motion by Niemiroski, seconded by Siudut to approve the Sept 29 2025 meeting minutes; approved 4-0.

Selectboard Report - Letty Bedard

- *BOS have been discussing budgets; some approving, some tabled
- *Hajjar said he has not received wage details for each department. Bedard said she has most of them and will share in the shared folder
- *Julie Stevens has been hired as Town Administrator.
- *Bedard asked for the Fire Department budget to be presented to the BOS next week

Swasey School Report - Dan Hebert

- *Principal Kew is retiring (14 years as principal) at the end of this school year. Search for replacement will begin in January.
- *SAU admin projected budget is flat.
- *HealthTrust rates will increase 17% for health, 5% for dental. This will make preparing local school budgets very challenging. Swasey will hold an additional budget workshop on Nov 3 at 5:30, before the regular monthly board meeting, to discuss scenarios. Siudut suggested Hebert urge SAU look at outside options, such as individual brokers.
- *Bedard brought up the court decision regarding sending/receiving out-of-district schooling. Sending schools now HAVE to pay min 80% of receiving school cost. Many unanswered questions such as who determines the max number of incoming students, who pays the other 20%, etc?

New Business/Other

- *NH DRA FY2026 Budget Schedule of Events. Hajjar reviewed the Meeting Timeline, per the Department of Revenue Administration. Hajjar would like to plan the first Budget Hearing for Feb 2, with potential second hearing on Feb 11, if necessary. Discussion about location of hearing, to accommodate residents and recording for YouTube. Mark Kennedy said if we have the meeting at Town Office, we would need to record it, then post it; we could put a screen in the Sanborn Room for viewing.
- *Grange Building. After our site visit to the Grange, Hajjar suggested a capital reserve fund specifically for the Grange Building be established. We as BudCom cannot recommend this, but Hajjar was simply making the suggestion. There is a CRF for Building Maintenance.
- *Health Insurance Subcommittee (comprised of 2 BudCom, 2 BOS, Town Administrator, 3 employees). Bedard said there was a meeting last week to discuss new HealthTrust rates; hoping to have two independent agents attend an upcoming meeting. The higher deductible rates are not presenting a lower cost.

Budgets

Hajjar stated we will not discuss any budgets for which we have not received details on salary increases. Bedard said most of those are in the shared online Folder.

*Budget Committee. Increase of \$165 for training of 2 members. Funds in this line were cut for 2025. Motion by Niemiroski, seconded by Hebert to approve \$232, which is a 246% increase; passed 5-0

*Cemetery. BOS asked the maintenance line be reduced; which was done.

Motion by Siudut, seconded by Bedard, to limit all COLA increases to 2.8% to align with SocialSecurity. Bedard said the 3% raises were a placeholder so departments could build budgets. Hebert questioned steps, etc; Bedard said we do not have anything like that for town employees except Police, Fire who have created their own. The Committee did not want to take a vote on this, until it was discussed by Selectboard. Motion by Kat to table, to discuss further at a future meeting.

*Conservation. Motion by Siudut, seconded by Niemiroski to approve \$12,704, which is level funded; passed 5-0

*Zoning. Motion by Siudut, seconded by Niemiroski to approve \$404, which is level funded; passed 5-0

*Debt Service. These are principal and interest payments on bonds. One bond was added under conservation, one bond fell off. TANS is tax anticipation note, in case we need to take out a loan before we receive tax bills. Motion by Siudut, seconded by Niemiroski to approve \$269,261, which is a decrease of \$4,131 or 1.5%; passed 5-0

Motion by Siudut, seconded by Niemiroski to adjourn; meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm; passed 5-0.

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

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

Feb 4 at ?pm: (potential) Budget Committee Hearing - location/time TBD

Mar 2 at 6pm: Swasey School District Meeting

Mar 14: (potential) Town Meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Siudut, Secretary