

Town of Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee
Minutes of February 5, 2026 Meeting held at Rec Center

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

Hajjar called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Motion by Kelly, seconded by Siudut to approve the January 26, 2026 meeting minutes; passed 5-0-1 (Hebert abstaining)

Warrant Articles

Appropriations for the following warrant articles, if approved, will fall within the tax cap.

**To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$160,000 for existing capital reserve funds: Information Systems Hardware \$30,000; Revaluation \$25,000; Maintenance of Town Buildings \$25,000; Fire Vehicles \$50,000; Public Safety Radios \$30,000.*

Information Systems Hardware current fund balance \$52,189
Revaluation currently \$52,198 current fund balance \$61,354
Maintenance of Town Buildings current fund balance \$72,589
Fire Vehicles current fund balance \$0
Public Safety Radios current fund balance \$33,438

Siudut asked if there were goal amounts for these funds; Bedard said that was not discussed by Selectboard.

Siudut asked if revaluation has been fully paid, Arida asked about balance in the revaluation CRF; Bedard said they have not received the final bill; Hajjar said the 2025 contract included \$95K for revaluation and \$60K for data collection.

Siudut asked what was purchased out of the hardware fund; Bedard believed 4 computers were replaced.

Bedard said the total amount could be changed at town meeting; however because the warrant is a total for 5 funds, the Selectboard could reallocate the amounts into whichever fund they choose.

Discussion about understanding balances. Kelly suggests recommending the warrant because these CRFs need to be funded. We'll still need to raise the funds over the next 4 years.

Bedard said these numbers can be adjusted at Town Meeting if more information is provided.

Motion by Kelly, seconded by Niemiroski, to recommend the warrant; passed 5-1 (Siudut voting nay)
Siudut explained she is not supporting this without an understanding of what the target goals are.

Bedard noted the 2024 audit has not been completed; it is expected to be done in May. The 2025 audit will not begin until 2024 is completed.

**To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$225,703 to establish a 24-hour per-diem firefighter/EMT position at the fire department, effective April 1, 2026.*

This was submitted by citizen petition. This would fund the position for 9 months in 2026; the total payroll cost for 2027 would include an additional 3 months.

Bedard said the Fire Chief submitted this, but the Selectboard voted 3-2 not to recommend. When the citizen petition was brought forth, the same 3-2 vote resulted.

Kelly said the original submission by the Chief was higher (for the full year). Next year the amount would be rolled into OB. Kelly said based on the call data and discussion with the chief she does not feel this is necessary. Bedard asked Kelly to elaborate on call data. Kelly said the amount of fire calls was about 2% of total - the split of Brentwood calls vs mutual aid calls were not separated. Bedard could not understand the concept that there are not enough fires in Brentwood. Kelly stated our town should not add staff just to accommodate mutual aid calls. Former Chief Bird had previously stated that even with additional PEOPLE we don't have enough WATER without mutual aid. Kelly feels the way we are staffing FD is not financially responsible for the size and call volume of this town. Kelly said it is not fair for Brentwood taxpayers to continue to fund other towns.

Hajjar said we currently have 24 hour coverage; however the pumper truck has a limited amount of water so we must count on mutual aid. Hajjar suggested the fire chief, who has been in the position of chief for only a few months, should educate the public about this request. Hajjar suggests the Committee not recommend this.

Niemiroski said the chief attempted to put it forward; a citizen petition deserves consideration; she has no problem adding \$200 to her tax bill and thinks this should go before the voters.

Motion by Siudut, seconded by Kelly to NOT recommend the warrant article; 3-3-1 (Hebert, Arida, Niemiroski voting nay; Bedard abstaining) The 3-3-1 vote will be shown on the warrant.

Motion by Arida, seconded by Niemiroski to recess at 5:51 pm; passed 7-0

At 7:22 a motion by Siudut, seconded by Bedard to resume the earlier meeting.

The required forms requiring committee members' signatures were not available. Hajjar will arrange for them to be signed at town office.

Motion by Bedard, seconded by Niemiroski to adjourn at 7:23 pm; passed 5-0

Upcoming Meetings - Meetings are public and livestreamed on Brentwood's YouTube channel.

Mar 2 at 6pm: Swasey School District Meeting

Mar 14: Town Meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Siudut, Secretary