Town of Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee
Minutes of May 11, 2026 Meeting held at Town Office

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

Hajjar called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Minutes
Motion by Mantegari, seconded by Niemiroski to approve the April 6, 2026 meeting minutes as amended; passed 5-0

Updates
BOS: Interviews have begun for a Town Administrator. A Deputy Treasurer has been hired. Highway department vehicle discussed at the last meeting is still being diagnosed. The 2024 audit is due by the end of May; Julie Stevens has agreed to stay on until the 2025 audit is done (sometime in June). We may hire a company to assist with audits in the future.

School board: Hebert asked that this Committee wait to hold elections until after the reps from Selectboard and Swasey board have been chosen. Unreserved fund balance expected to be $250K at the end of June. The new principal will start in a couple of months. Hajjar asked Hebert to obtain information on health insurance; Hebert said options are limited for school districts, but they will be discussed at the next Joint Board meeting on Monday, May 18. Insurance payments/distribution of rates is locked in for teachers until 2030, per contract.
Hajjar asked about a potential legal issue. Hebert explained a letter from DOE was received last March threatening loss of funding if school districts did not adhere to certain standards. The Court decided the letter/demands could not be upheld. Although not a current concern, schools in the district are considering signing onto an amicus brief prepared by the ACLU at a potential cost of $8000 to be divided by whichever schools sign on.

Old Business
Brentwood Solid Waste Committee. Kelly previously gave a presentation to the Selectboard, which was unfortunately not recorded. So she showed the same presentation to our Committee. In 2025 Trash Collection cost $379K and Disposal cost $129K for a total of $508K (blended rated $343.08/ton). Recycling Collection cost $150,750 and Processing cost $47,900 (blended rated $571.23/ton). Although it is very expensive to recycle, our landfill capacity is limited (until 2035), so we must find ways to divert trash/recyclables before they are collected. The committee is researching alternatives, including food scrap diversion (composting), PAYT and structural changes (transfer station). The committee prepared a survey which was distributed at Brentwood Gathering and a QR code was printed in the Brentwood Newsletter. We have 60 survey responses so far. Hebert noted the Swasey food director is seeking grants and implementing a compost system.

New/Other Business

a. Impact Fee Update. Hajjar had hoped to have either the Town Administrator and/or Treasurer in attendance tonight but neither were. Hajjar did receive by email, an updated list of Impact Fee collections and allocations. It is unclear how old the balance of impact fees is. Hajjar has additional questions about the updated spreadsheet; he will follow up with the Treasurer. The report on Impact Fees is past due. Discussion about Impact Fee Schedule (most recent 2022) and how that is decided.
b. Review of Tax Cap implementation with SB2. We are the only municipality in NH that has both a tax cap and SB2. We will now need to create a Default Budget. SB2 with a tax cap could get complicated. If warrants are increased at Deliberative Session by simple majority, the actual vote at March polls would need a ⅗ majority.

Public Comment

None

The recording of this meeting can be viewed at
https://www.youtube.com/live/QI8zBvhRVwY?si=9W7WiegZUSm9_hEW

Motion by Siudut, seconded by Hebert to adjourn at 7:39 pm.

Upcoming Meetings - Meetings are public and livestreamed on Brentwood's YouTube channel.
Jun 3: BudCom Meeting 6pm

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Siudut, Secretary