

Town of Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee
Minutes of June 3, 2026 Meeting held at Town Office

Members Present: Jim Hajjar (Chair), Kat Niemiroski, Alina Arida, Dan Hebert (Swasey rep), Bob Mantegari (Selectboard rep, arrived approx 7pm)

Excused: Michelle Siudut

Unexcused: Gabbie Kelly

Hajjar called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Minutes

A quorum of those in attendance at the May 11, 2026 meeting were not present. Motion by Niemiroski, seconded by Arida to table; passed 4-0

Swasey School Board Update- Dan Hebert

Swasey is projecting a \$250,000 unreserved fund balance. Preliminary state test results look like a 5% increase in ELA and 4% increase in math. Hebert spoke with heads of HR and finance at the SAU16 joint board meeting about medical benefit trends and what it means for school districts. The presentation is available online. The biggest cost drivers were prescription and specialized medications/pharmaceuticals, between the negotiated contracts (good for 5 years, through 2030) and the risk pool we are in.

Amicus brief update: we were able to see the notes and contents without paying legal and Swasey has signed on with a unanimous vote. Most of SAU16 also signed on, bringing the legal cost down to the \$1-2k range.

The IRS has a deadline of June 12 to update on the solar panel rebate, thanks to Senator Hassan's intervention. If it comes through it could be built into this year's fiscal cycle.

Resident Ched Miller asked how much we receive in federal funds; Hebert said about 6-8% is tied into federal funding (Swasey).

Select Board update- Bob Mantegari

Fire Chief Olson approached the BOS asking that they create an exploratory subcommittee to propose taking on the ambulance service for Fremont (Raymond will not do it moving forward and Epping turned them down). The subcommittee will explore the feasibility of Brentwood taking on this kind of obligation; this will ultimately need to be voted on by the residents. Hebert asked why this doesn't fall under mutual aid. Hajjar said mutual aid needs to go both ways; our fire department cannot subsidize a town who chooses not to have their own specific service/department. Hajjar said there are also discussions about this at the county level, as 30% of Brentwood ambulance calls are to county facilities. Resident Ched Miller said a collaborative effort is the way to go, which should increase efficiency by spreading risks, and be a cost savings. He questioned the fact that no open positions are listed on the website. Mantegari said attracting new talent is hard when there are less calls and the newer hires get bored.

Interviews are ongoing for town administrator and rec director.

Old Business

Brentwood Solid Waste Committee Trash talk is on the calendar for a July meeting.

Impact fee update:

Link sent out by Hajjar can be found at

(<https://www.brentwoodnh.gov/files/documents/Summaryof2025ImpactFeesfromTATreaagenda147951474060326-043045PMb.pdf>)

Treasurer Linda Lambert distributed impact fee spreadsheets with amounts collected/disbursed since 2022, noting that all of the 2025 data has not yet been recorded.

Hajjar asked if this chart assumes that as of 2022 the opening balances were all zero. Niemiroski asked why the Sept 2025 data did not carry to the totals at the bottom of each department. Hajjar asked if there is a history of the aging of impact fees, to ensure fees have been disbursed within the allotted time. Lambert will verify these questions with the Town Administrator.

Hajjar stated discussions with the previous treasurer implied there was confusion as to who owns what part of this process; he acknowledges the challenges that come from creating the first iteration of this document given the gap in information and expressed gratitude to Lambert for her efforts. Lambert said impact fee balances prior to 2022, to the best of her knowledge, would be very minimal and the need to refund owners/developers is unlikely.

New/Other Business

Review of SB2 Default Budget

You may view the powerpoint shown during this meeting at:

(<https://www.brentwoodnh.gov/files/documents/SB2DefaultBudgetOverviewagenda147951474060126-064242PMa.pdf>)

RSA 40 defines default budgeting. Items noted:

- Authority for the default budget, under SB2, is the Select Board, not the Budget Committee.
- Raises written into a hiring contract would not be in a default budget *unless* the legislative body had voted on them (so collective bargaining agreement increases would be included in default budget because voters approve these agreements, but promised increases outside of such agreements would not be included in the default budget.)
- if HB1575 passes, Budcom would need to sign off on the default budget
- Hajjar feels the biggest complication may be the Casella contract's 5% escalation, because the voters did not approve that contract, the Selectboard did. Niemiroski questioned if voters having voted to fund manual collection would be considered the legislative body approving the whole contract?

Letty Bedard speaking as a private citizen suggested looking at examples of SB2 town bus contracts.

(Mantegari joined the meeting)

Hajjar said if there is a legal obligation to pay something, it would be included in the default budget.

Letty Bedard speaking as a private citizen reminded the Committee that once the amount of the default budget is approved, the Select Board can move money around between departments.

Mantegari encouraged Hajjar to reach out to legal counsel for clarification on some of the big questions.

Discussion about site walk strategies, ie having a template, focusing on budget needs, etc. Hajjar will work on scheduling the visits.

With Mantegari in attendance, discussion of May meeting meetings was resurrected. Motion by Niemiroski; seconded by Mantegari, to approve the May 11, 2026 meeting minutes. Passed 4-0-1 with Arida abstaining.

Public Comment

None

Motion by Niemiroski, seconded by Arida to adjourn at 8:13 pm; passed unanimously.

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

Links for documents mentioned in this meeting can be found at:

<https://www.brentwoodnh.gov/agendaView.aspx?aid=14795&categoryid=12621>

Sep 14: BudCom Meeting 6pm

Minutes for this meeting taken by Kat Niemiroski.