

Town of Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee
Minutes of September 16, 2026 Site Visit at Police Department

Committee Members: Jim Hajjar (chair), Kat Niemiroski

Staff: Chief Chet Murch

Select Board: Letty Bedard

Public: Doug Finan, Laura Hajjar

4:30 pm start time.

Jim confirmed with Chief what we were told at last budget committee meeting regarding inability for town to apply for NHMBB bonds until 2025 (and possibly 2026) financial audits are completed. Chief mentioned that there may be an additional site being looked at for future police station.

Chief was asked about water issues. He told us that no water has come in from outside, but there was a water leak from upstairs air conditioning. Appears water mitigation has worked as Chief said he has not seen any water come in from outside since he's been here.

Chief Murch led a tour of police station and highlighted the following:

- Garage – too small to fit cruisers. Using it to store police motorcycle and other equipment.
- Two holding cells – Not used except for overflow storage of evidence. We utilize county jail for holding cells
- Locker room
- Armory room (very tight quarters)
- The sergeant's office has no window to outside. Would be beneficial if we could have a window installed.
- The A/C closet which was where the water leaked from upstairs A/C unit
- Lieutenant's office (which does have a window)
- Squad room
- The maintenance log board clearly shows that the department is rotating vehicles, tracking vehicle usage, and maintenance needs.

Chief Murch told us that he is good on all radios. The only possible upgrade he is looking at is replacing the squad room radio (an old cruiser radio that has been modified) and speaker with a new modern radio that has small speakers on each desk. He would use impact fees to pay for this new system.

The one area Chief Murch stressed most was getting his officer pays more in line with similar communities. The current \$27 per hour entry level needs to be increased to something more like \$30 per hour. Jim stated that the Chief helped us immensely by reducing his budget by almost 10% last year. He thanked the Chief and said the police department needs to be the budget committee's priority department in the FY2027 budget. The site visit ended at approximately 5:10PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hajjar
Chair, Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee