

Town of Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee
Minutes of September 28, 2026 Meeting held at Town Office

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

Hajjar called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Minutes

Motion by Siudut, seconded by Kelly, to approve September 14, 2026 meeting minutes as amended; passed 5-0

Hajjar asked to discuss the vacant position, in respect to the Town Clerk's time. Motion by Mantegari, seconded by Siudut to appoint Ched Miller to replace Alina Arida's open seat; passed 6-0. Miller was sworn in by Town Clerk Daphne Woss, and welcomed to the table. Appreciation was expressed for Miller's willingness to be here.

Swasey School Board Update- Dan Hebert

No report

Select Board update- Bob Mantegari

- Budget schedule was approved.
- It is anticipated that the Fire Department will put forth a warrant article for additional staff; and a warrant article for coordinating services for Fremont.
- As a result of the audit, there is discussion about developing a Finance administrator/bookkeeper position. Mantegari said MRI has municipal resources which could help with the audit and with potential applicants, helping to ensure we have the right parameters/processes. Kelly expressed concern with conflict since MRI had helped with previous audits.
- Kelly asked about establishing a Finance Advisory Committee; Mantegari said it has been discussed but not decided on. Kelly offered to supply information on other town's advisory committees and also audit procedures; there are residents who could offer their expertise.
- Hajjar asked if the BOS has discussed raises. Mantegari said raises are based on merit. COLA rates come out in Oct, expected to be 3.6%. Niemiroski's opinion is that all employees should get COLA, with merit as a separate discussion. Mantegari is expecting higher rates across all insurances. Niemiroski asked when town insurance rates will be known; Town Administrator is looking into this. Miller said with the tax cap, the Town could budget all non-comp items then see what's left or manage the reverse. He feels merit is the better approach. Niemiroski said we need to keep people; Miller said we need to keep valuable people. Miller asked if the town has yearly increases or a step program? Mantegari said police and fire have proposed matrix, but future boards cannot be bound by them. Miller asked if we have salary ranges? Mantegari said we've tried to maintain competitive wages. Miller reiterated that we will be looking at additional staffing in order to bring procedures into control.

Old Business

In response to this Committee's Formal Request for financial information, the Town Administrator sent the expenditure report through September. The Treasurer sent the MS9 report which shows balances of CRFs and expendable trusts; she also sent a fund snapshot, which included information on what the fund was established for as well as breakdown of expenses for this year. Hajjar said understanding revenues is important to our process. The Treasurer, understandably, does not want to share numbers that have not been reconciled; however we need to have numbers in order to build/justify budgets. Miller asked how often the books are "closed". Mantegari said it should be monthly, but that has not been happening. The Treasurer is working very hard to rectify this.

New/Other Business

- Trash Committee met with NH Recycles at Town Shed to learn about options and opportunities. The Committee will be meeting to review the suggestions.
- Mantegari said Hazardous Waste day had the biggest turnout ever, with 414 vehicles.

Public Comment

Jim Berlo: Regarding online viewing - voices are very quiet, speakers must speak loudly and directly into the microphones; also when showing something on the screen, please zoom in. Regarding merit increases & cola - taxpayers don't get increases every year. He urged this Committee to consider the TAXpayers first, then employees; residents cannot afford the taxes.

Motion by Mantegari, seconded by Niemiroski to adjourn at 6:55 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>

Oct 14: Budget Committee Meeting at 6 pm

Oct 26: Budget Committee Meeting at 6 pm

Jan 14, 2027: Budget Committee meeting at 5 pm

Jan 14, 2027: Budget Committee Hearing at 6 pm

Respectfully,

Michelle Siudut, Secretary