

BRENTWOOD MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

FEBRUARY 10, 2025



Thank you all for joining us for the...

1. READ SLIDE

The members of the Budget Committee held 20 public meetings to work through, line by line, Brentwood's more than 40 department budgets. Committee members are Alina Arida, Brian Duffy-School Board Rep, Gabby Kelly, Jenn Jones-Selectboard Rep, Kat Niemiroski, Michelle Siudut- our Secretary, and I am Jack Mitchell - Chair

Being taxpayers ourselves, we have taken these budgets seriously, as our Townspeople do. This year it got a thorough second review by both the SB and BudCom. I believe it will be obvious from this presentation that the committee's work has been thorough and its recommendations are in the best interest of maintaining what we have in Brentwood, while at the same time planning for future needs.

Tonight's Purpose

- **Present the Town and Swasey School Budgets, Warrant Articles, and Citizen's Petitions with financial implications**
- **Provide the Budget Committee's and Selectboard's recommendations**
- **Hear public comment**

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2.READ SLIDE

BOTTOM LINE

	Budget Amount Appropriations	Budget Change	% Change
Town + County + Swasey + COOP <small>With Warrant Articles</small>	26,357,688	1,539,989	6.2%

3

3. Long ago I had a boss whose good advice was, when looking at finances, to START with the bottom line. So, let's do that now.

Combining appropriations for the Town, County, Swasey School, and COOP budgets results in a 6.2% increase of \$1.5M compared to the prior year budget. So that is the budget: a list of appropriations (i.e., expected expenditures) for 2025.

The budget reflects the needs and priorities of the community and sets an upper limit on municipal spending.

Note that the % Change is simply the proposed *budgets* this year compared to last year. It is not an estimate of our 2025 tax bill increase. We'll get to that important discussion in a little bit.

PAUSE

That's the bottom line. Now, let's see what was done to get to the bottom line. To do that we will start with

- Town Operating Budget & Warrant Articles
- Swasey Operating Budget & Warrant Articles
- County Budget
- Finally, touch on the COOP Budget

TOWN OPERATING BUDGET WITH ARPA FUNDS

	Budget Amount	Budget Change	Percent Change
Town Operating Budget	6,870,672	571,910	9.1%
ARPA Funds	(43,629)	(43,629)	
Total	6,827,043	528,281	8.4%

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4. So, first up is the Town Operating Budget

- Made up of 40 depts, each with their own budget
- The total of those budgets is the BUDGET AMOUNT on this slide (also known as appropriations)
- The CHANGE is the \$ increase in comparison to the prior year budget
- The PERCENT CHANGE, year over year, is 9.1%, reduced to 8.4% with ARPA funds
- This reflects Inflation in our costs as well as growth in our town
- FORMAT will be same for the slides that follow...
- Are there any QUESTIONS about the format?
- We can come back later to any slide
- If you can indicate the Subject or Title or Slide Number

Our Operating Budget will be reduced by \$44K with ARPA funds to offset RECYCLING costs. The new contract for RECYCLING increased greatly, at the last moment. This will leave the last of our ARPA funding, another \$44K, for use another time.

Ok, so the question at this time is what is in the \$572K budget increase?

MAJOR DEPARTMENT INCREASES

	Budget Amount	Budget Change	Percent Change
Fire	1,256,541	249,252	25%
Police	1,400,987	144,479	12%
Rubbish Collection	362,938	101,567	39%
Recycling	143,050	72,588	103%
General Government	111,826	43,749	64%
Insurance	186,111	26,496	17%
Library	358,990	23,840	7%
85% of Total Increases			

5

5. This is an important slide!

- It accounts for 85% of the increase

The Depts are listed in descending order by size of \$ increase

READ HERE:

- The largest increase is for FIRE, which is up 25% due to reorganization toward a full-time Dept. The new position of Deputy Chief and elevation of 2 unfilled positions to LT are in preparation for Chief Bird's retirement and are in recognition of fewer part-timers available. This is necessary to maintain a fully functional Fire and Ambulance service. Calls for service are up at the jail, nursing home, and 3 Ponds area. At the same time, our station may become the new home for ALS, the Advanced Life Support service leaving Exeter Hospital.
- Second largest increase is POLICE, up 12%, now adequately staffed with full funding for an officer, two Corporals to be promoted, and increased prosecutor duties. More hours are necessary for Dragway events and the State has doubled training requirements. Motor vehicle stops, arrests, and warrants have more than doubled since 2020. But, still only a single officer is on duty from 2 AM to 6 AM, a safety concern.
- RUBBISH collection is up 39% and Recycling up 103% as a favorable contract for the Town expired and new one has begun. The new 5-year contract reflects higher labor costs, health and safety concerns, and longer routes.
- GENERAL GOVERNMENT, up 64%, for a Town grant writer and Town Communications, including the Brentwood Newsletter.
- INSURANCE contract is up 17% for property & liability and workers comp
- LIBRARY, up 7%, with graduating student – called "Pages" - to be replaced with one PT assistant to make a total of 4 part-time assistants. Old staff computers (donated anonymously in 2020) are to be replaced and there are cost increases for media, telephone, and Wifi.
- SO AGAIN, THIS SLIDE ACCOUNTS FOR **85% OF THE BUDGET INCREASE.**

DEPARTMENT INCREASES

	Budget Amount	Budget Change	Percent Change
Debt Service - Principal	215,100	20,100	10%
Tax Collector	94,938	17,229	22%
Town Clerk	93,839	17,229	23%
Benefits (EE health care)	582,725	14,076	3%
Debt Service - Interest	58,291	13,211	29%
Finance	125,790	11,799	10%
Information Systems	84,225	8,903	12%

6

6. This next slide with smaller increases accounts for **another 13% of increases.**

READ

- DEBT SERVICE – PRINCIPAL, up 15%, with the Fuller Open Space Bond of \$250K added
- TAX COLLECTOR and TOWN CLERK up 22-23% with additional hours and wage adjustments.
- BENEFITS (employee health care) up 3% by contract.

Other carriers are to be investigated in 2025.

- DEBT SERVICE – INTEREST up 29% with the new Open Space Bond.
- FINANCE Up 10% with the New treasurer’s contract allowing reconciliation to be brought back in-house.
- INFORMATION SYSTEMS up 12% with contracts for hardware and software support.

MINOR DEPARTMENT INCREASES

	Budget Amount	Budget Change	Percent Change
Waste Disposal	166,170	7,680	5%
Code Enforcement	92,471	4,171	5%
Recreation	116,483	3,847	3%

7

7. This slide shows minor increases, which I'll come back to, later, if there are questions.

- RECREATION is listed here. A WA to expand its capabilities and staff hours will be presented later.

LEVEL AND REDUCED FUNDED DEPARTMENTS

	Budget Amount	Budget Change	Percent Change
Level & Reduced Funded 23 depts	1,420,197	-208,306	-13%

8

8. Several budgets were level-funded and some were reduced, offsetting \$208K or 13% from the prior year.

DEPARTMENT BUDGETS

Level Funded

6. Conservation, Animal Control Officer, Assessing, Debt Service-TAN, Street Lighting, Health Officer

9

9. There was no change in funding for these 7 departments.

READ

DEPARTMENT BUDGETS

Reduced Funding

16. Joint Loss Management, Budget Committee, Cemetery, Zoning Board, Mosquito Control, Town Meeting, Planning Board, Legal, Executive Office, Highway, Welfare, Town Administrator, Emergency Management, Election, Government Buildings, Snow & Ice Control

10

10. Funding was reduced for these 16 departments.

READ

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

- **Capital Improvements Program (CIP)**
 - Looks ahead Six Years
 - \$10,000+
 - Updated annually
 - Posted by Planning Board on Town Website



11. Our Capital Improvements Program (CIP) was a guide for the WAs. Most of the WAs are forward-looking Capital Reserve Fund proposals.

The CIP looks ahead 6 years to recognize needed items costing more than \$10K. It is updated annually and posted on the Town Website by the Planning Board.

TOWN OPERATING BUDGET & WARRANT ARTICLES

	Budget Amount	Budget Change	Percent Change
Town OB with ARPA	6,827,043	528,281	8.4%
Town Warrant Articles with loader purchase	561,226	176,226	46%
Total	7,388,269	704,507	10.5%

12

12. To our Operating Budget with ARPA we need to add

- The Town Warrant Articles
- They are 46% higher than the prior year with purchase of the front-end loader for HWY .

So, what else is in these RECOMMENDED Warrant Articles?

TOWN WARRANT ARTICLES

	Budget Amount
Purchase of Front-End Loader	190,000
CRF Highway Vehicles/Equip Purchase	150,000
CRF Fire Vehicles	50,000
CRF Revaluation	35,000
CRF Information Systems Hardware	30,000
CRF Public-Safety Radios	30,000
New Recreation Program Dir. Position	26,226
CRF Maint. of Town-Owned Buildings	25,000
CRF Multi-Purpose Municipal Building	25,000

13

13. The Warrant Articles are listed here

- again, by decreasing amount
- Most amounts are going into Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs)
- Some REGULAR ITEMS will be VOTED as a group to consume less time at Town Meeting
- The largest item is for HWY: \$190K to replace the 23 year old Front End Loader, for which parts are no longer available.
- HWY at 150K is saving to replace two trucks and 1 piece of heavy equipment over the next 4 years. Total cost: ~\$800K.
- FIRE at 50K was pursuing a grant last year that did not come through. This CRF will now support other fire vehicles.
- REVALUATION at 35K is saving for the next Reval in 2030.
- INFORMATION SYSTEMS HARDWARE at 30K is for servers and more
- The 30K CRF for RADIOS was established last year to support all 1st responders and public safety.
- The new Rec Program Directors Position is an expansion of the current PT position to improve program efficiency.
- The remaining WAs are for smaller amounts, which I'll come back to if there are questions.

MAJOR DEPARTMENT BUDGETS

	Budget Amount	Percent of Operating Budget
Police	1,400,987	20%
Fire	1,256,541	18%
Highway + Snow/Ice Control	909,421	13%
Rubbish Collection + Disposal + Recycling (Casella) 37% increase	672,158	10%
Benefits (EE health insurance)	582,725	9%
Library	358,990	5%
Debt Principal + Interest	273,391	4%
Total	5,454,213	79%

14

14. Now, let's step back for a moment. This slide lists our 7 largest department budgets. Together they **represent almost 80% of our TOTAL operating budget.**

- Since budgeting is an expression of priorities, this is ACTUALLY a list of our priorities! Again, largest to smallest:

- Police for security is 20% of the OB
- Fire for safety is 18% of the OB
- Highway for transportation is 13%
- Rubbish disposal for a clean community is 10%
- Benefits to support town employees
- Library for information exchange
- Debt Principal + Interest

The remaining debt PRINCIPAL we have due is

Fire station (\$525,000)

Purchase of Land and Easements (\$405,000)

Prescott Rd (\$200,000)

NEW ITEMS:

Fuller Easement (\$250,000)

Swasey Solar Panels (~\$662,000)

TOTAL DEBT PRINCIPAL IS \$2M

Again, this represents nearly 80% of our total town OB.

PAUSE

COUNTY BUDGET

OPERATING BUDGET + WA WITH COUNTY SHARE

	Budget Amount	Budget Change	Percent Change
Town Operating Budget with ARPA + WA	7,388,269	704,507	10.5%
County Budget	648,706	44,311	7.3%
Total	8,036,975	748,818	10.3%

16

16. In the second row down is Brentwood's share of the County budget, 1.2% of Rockingham's total.

- Overall, there is a 3.5% increase for all towns.
- We are working to find out why Brentwood's increase is higher at 7.3%?

SWASEY SCHOOL OPERATING BUDGET & WA

	Budget Amount	Budget Change	Percent Change
Swasey Operating Budget	7,338,783	281,401	4.0%
Solar Debt Service Financial Obligations	120,962	99,712	469%
WA Special Education CRF	20,000	--	--
WA Technology CRF	10,000	--	--
TOTALS	7,459,745	381,113	5.4%

17

17. Next is the proposed Swasey School Operating Budget, which is up 5.4% this year, including the initial solar bond payment.

It includes two WAs from the unassigned fund balance, if available. They will not increase taxes.

The solar panels are fully installed. They are connected to the grid and producing AS OF THIS MORNING!

Exeter Regional Cooperative School District

Operating Budget

18

18. Finally, we come to the COOP School Operating Budget

EXETER REGIONAL COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

FY25	FY26	FY26
Budget	Default Budget	Proposed Budget
\$68,530,556	\$70,768,618	\$71,266,195

19

19. The total proposed for all 6 towns is

- \$71.3 million
- A 4% increase over the prior year.
- Brentwood's share – thankfully - is only 15%.

TOTAL BUDGET WITH PROPOSED COOP

	Budget Amount	Budget Change	Percent Change
Town OB with ARPA + WA	7,388,269	704,507	10.5%
County Budget	648,706	44,311	7.3%
Swasey + Solar	7,459,745	381,113	5.4%
Cooperative School PROPOSED Brentwood portion 15%	10,860,968	410,058	3.9%
Total	26,357,688	1,539,989	6.2%

20

20. In the fourth row down is Brentwood's 15% share
- There is a 3.9% increase for all towns.

PAUSE

So, combining

- Town **Operating budget + WA**
- County
- Swasey **Operating budget + WA**
- **Brentwood's share of COOP**

This brings us back to where we started: the **BOTTOM LINE**:

The Grand Total of proposed expenses is \$26.4 million
- Which is an increase of 6.2% over the prior year.

TAX IMPACT OF BUDGET

- “BUDGET” is the total of appropriations (anticipated expenses)
- “TAX IMPACT” is an estimate of how this BUDGET will affect our tax rate compared to the prior year
- “TAX RATE” considers not only the change in APPROPRIATIONS but also and importantly REVENUES and EXPENDITURES

21

21. READ

At this point, it is fair to ask, “What impact will this budget have on my taxes?”

We can attempt to ESTIMATE this, but – as you will see – there are many moving parts.

First of all, let’s be clear about some definitions.

XX. READ SLIDE

TAX IMPACT OF BUDGET

- The IMPACT of the BUDGET on the TAX RATE requires ESTIMATES for future revenues and expenditures
- The true value of these estimates will not be known until nine months *after* budget is prepared
- Federal, State, Local sources
- Estimates needed are...

22

22. READ

- To determine the IMPACT of this BUDGET on our TAX RATE requires ESTIMATES of future revenues and expenditures
- The true value of these estimates will not be known until 9 months after the budget is prepared. The Budget is prepared in Jan, the Tax Rate is not set until Oct by the SB and State.
- There are Federal, State, and Local sources of revenues to be considered.
- Estimates needed are...

TAX IMPACT OF BUDGET

- ESTIMATES:
 - Town revenues
 - Fund Balance to reduce taxes
 - War service credit
 - Actual overlay used
 - Education Grant (Adequacy)
 - Retained State Education Tax
 - Total Town Assessment
- *Revaluation will not be considered here*

23

READ SLIDE

23. Estimates are needed for these 7 items.

What will the Town revenues be?

What will the Fund Balance to reduce taxes be?

The War service credit?

Actual overlay used?

Education grant for (adequacy)?

Retained State Education Tax?

Total Town Assessment?

PAUSE

Of course, it would be foolish to try to estimate so many variables, 9 months in advance!

So...

Oh, what the heck...

Let's accept that as a challenge and consider the following scenario, which could be one of many:

TAX IMPACT OF BUDGET

- SCENARIO:

- Town revenues +10%
- Fund Balance to reduce taxes \$1,350,192 (11.3% of TTE - \$1M)
- War service credit +5%
- Actual overlay used -50%
- Education Grant (Adequacy) no change
- Retained State Education Tax no change
- Total Town Assessment +2%

- *Revaluation will not be considered here*

24

READ SLIDE

24. Let's take this scenario as our best – JANUARY - estimate.

- Town revenues will increase 10%...
- Fund Balance to reduce taxes will be \$1M
- War service credit increases 5%
- Actual overlay is cut in half
- There is NO change in the Education Grant for (Adequacy) and
- Retained State Education Tax increases 10%
- Total Town Assessment increases 2%

If all this happens...

TAX IMPACT OF BUDGET - ESTIMATED

- TAX IMPACT estimated with scenario: 7.1% increase
 - \$714 increase \$400K property
- “...estimated tax impact will always be just that: an estimate.” - NHMA
- Note: If any estimates change during the year, it will change this scenario
- *Revaluation not considered*
- jmitchell@brentwoodnh.gov

25

25. If all this scenario happens to our variables, the increase in our combined budgets would result in a TAX increase of 8.9% compared to the prior year. This would be for the town as a whole. However, estimates for individual property values cannot be done reliably this year due to REVALUATION. The 400K property in this example is a before-revaluation value.

The NH Municipal Association reminds us that, “...estimated tax impact will always be just that: an estimate.” If you would like to make your own scenario, send me an email – my address is on the screen – and I will send you the spreadsheet for the calculation. This is the same calculation the NH Department of Revenue Administration uses to set our tax rate.

Brentwood’s revaluation will be completed this September and will be in effect for our November tax bill. If there are questions about revaluation, we can discuss them later today in the Q&A.

TAX IMPACT OF BUDGET - ESTIMATED

- TAX IMPACT estimated with scenario: 7.1% increase
- BUDGET (appropriations list sets upper spending limit)
6.2% increase
- Note: If any estimates change during the year, it will change this scenario
- *Revaluation not considered*

26

26. Here we compare that TAX RATE increase with the BUDGET increase itself. These are not the same due to the variables in the scenario.

For our scenario, the 6.2% increase in our BUDGET results in an 7.1% increase in TAX.

Please note:

- while the Tax Rate change is only one scenario of many possible
- in contrast,
- The BUDGET change from the prior year is KNOWN, since that is just the change in total appropriations.

TAX IMPACT OF BUDGET – ESTIMATED BOTTOM LINE

- *Requires scenario estimates for revenues and expenditure

	Budget Amount <small>Appropriations</small>	Budget Change	% Change	Scenario* Estimated Tax Impact
Town + County + Swasey + COOP <small>With Warrant Articles</small>	26,357,688	1,539,989	6.2%	7.1%

27

27. This brings us back to the Bottom Line we started with, now with a scenario estimation of the Impact the Budget will have on the Tax Rate, for the town as a whole.

HOW ARE TAXES USED?

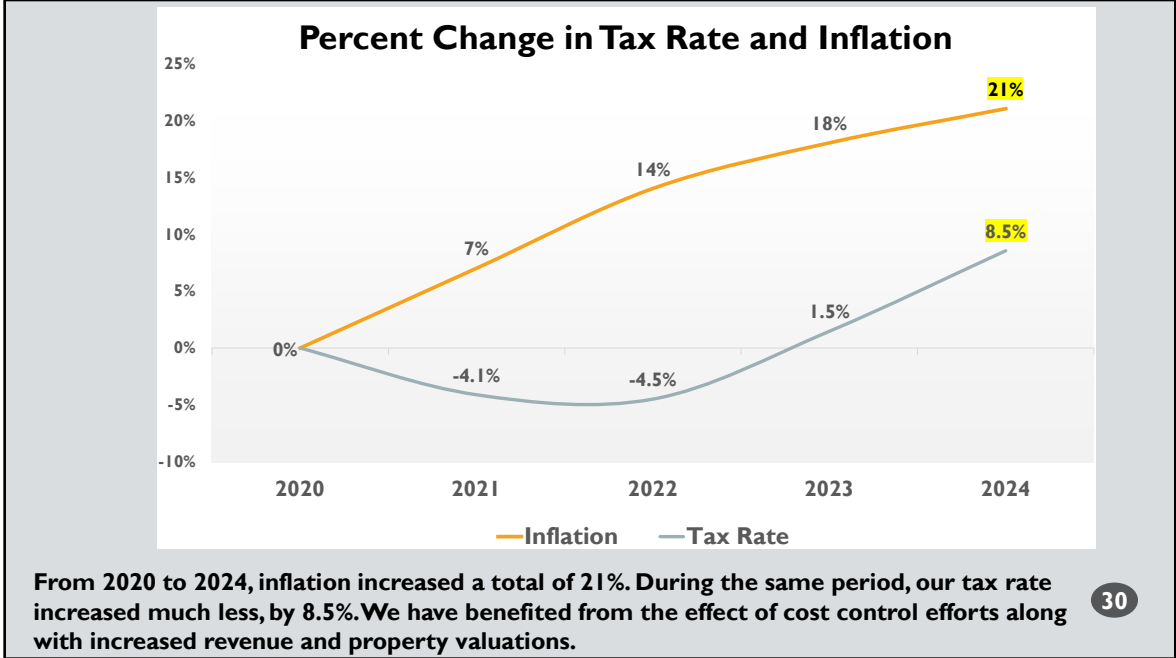
	Tax Rate per \$1,000	Percentage of Tax
Local Education	19.43	72%
State Education	1.59	6%
Municipal	5.09	19%
County	0.84	3%
Total	26.96	100%

28

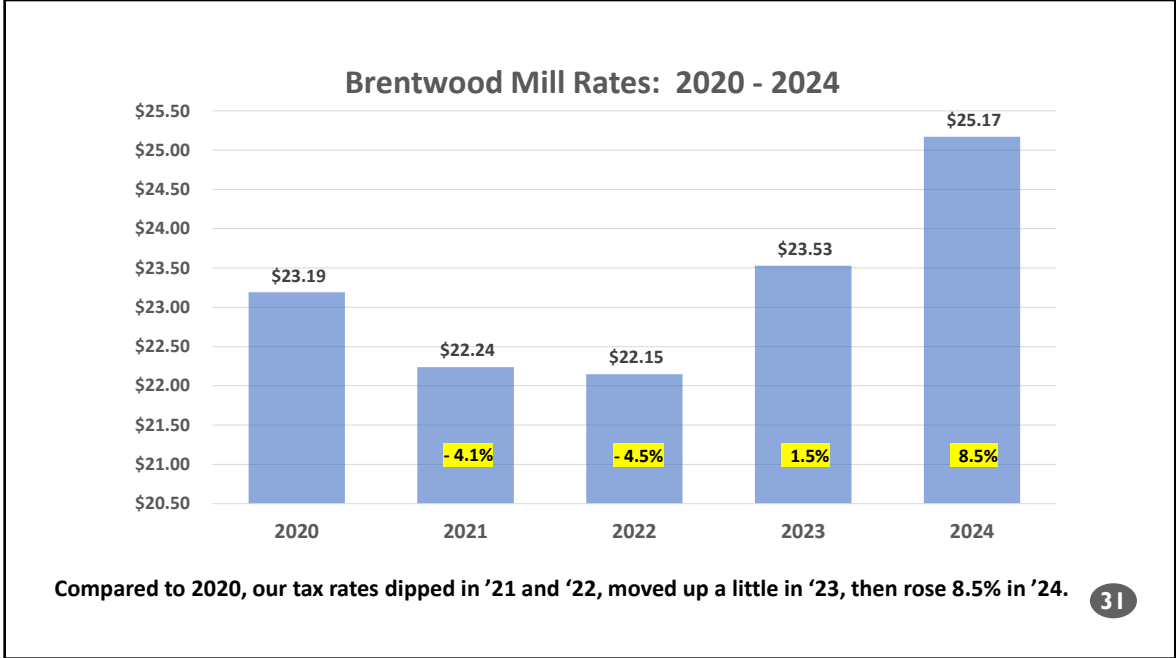
28. So, how are our taxes used?

- 78%, the majority, will go to education
- 19% to operate the town
- 3% to operate the County

TAX RATE HISTORY



30. From 2020 to 2024, inflation increased a total of 21%. During the same period, our tax rate increased much less, by 8.5%. We have benefited from the effect of cost control efforts along with increased revenue and property valuations.



31. Compared to 2020, our tax rates dipped in '21 and '22, moved up a little in '23, then rose a total of 8.5% from 2020 to 2024.

TAX RATE 2020 vs 2024

	2020	2024
Assessed Valuation	\$361,500	\$361,500
Tax Rate (per \$1,000)	23.19	25.17
Total Tax	\$8,383	\$9,099
Change		\$716
Change	----	8.5%

32

32. As an example, I have “randomly” selected...well it looks like my own tax bills have come up again to compare 2020 and 2024.

- Note the Assessed Valuation remained the same during that period, meaning I made no improvements
- Our tax rate increased from 23.19 to 25.17
- So, the tax for this property, over 4 years, increased \$716 or 8.5%.
- You can confirm this using your own tax bills, comparing total tax, November to November.



33. Ok now, what are some of the real items included in these budgets?

Town Budget – *What's in It?*



Full-Time Firefighters Needed

34

34. . IN THE TOWN BUDGET FOR 2025 WE HAVE:
A necessary move to a full-time Fire Dept and the retirement of Chief Bird. This photo is old and a little misleading. At that time many PT's were available.

Town Budget – *What's in It?*



\$380,000
Roads

35

35. ROADS: There are 67 miles of roads in Brentwood, they last 20-30 years; the \$380K allocated is enough to resurface just 2 mi ea yr along with some road repair; Beyond that, new developments will soon be adding more miles to be maintained.

PAUSE...Does anyone recognize this stretch of road?
It is Lake Road. It is near my house and I'm still looking for the Lake!

Town Budget – *What's in It?*



\$280,000

New Plow Truck 2024

36

36. This NEW Plow Truck had to be purchased last spring, a year before scheduled replacement. And the Loader in the next photo has now failed 4 years before expected – parts are no longer available.

Both of these expired pieces of heavy equipment were 22-23 years old.

Town Budget – *What's in It?*



\$180,000
Loader

37

37. Highway now needs to replace this loader, at \$180K. Beyond that, Highway anticipates replacing 2 trucks and an excavator, in the next 4 years. Approximate cost for these 4 items is nearly \$1M.

Town Budget – *What's in It?*



\$107,000
Additional Police
Officer

38

38. \$40K is the substantial cost to hire and outfit a new officer. For this and other reasons, every effort is made to retain seasoned officers.

With the additional Police officer, staff is now 13 FT but there is still an officer safety concern from 2 AM to 6 AM, when only one officer is on duty alone.

Town Budget – *What's in It?*



\$250,000

Fuller Conservation Easement

39

39. The Fuller easement with the town contributing nearly \$250K for 27 acres has been completed. It includes another nearly \$190K contributed by the South East Land Trust and others.

Town Budget – *What's in It?*



\$672,000
Waste Disposal

40

40. Waste Disposal is a substantial increase of 37% over the prior year, primarily from a new contract with Casella.

County Budget – *What's in It?*



Sheriff



\$650,000
County
Attorney



Corrections

41

41. From the County, for \$650K, we get a Sheriff, County Attorney, and Corrections.

Swasey Budget – *What's in It?*



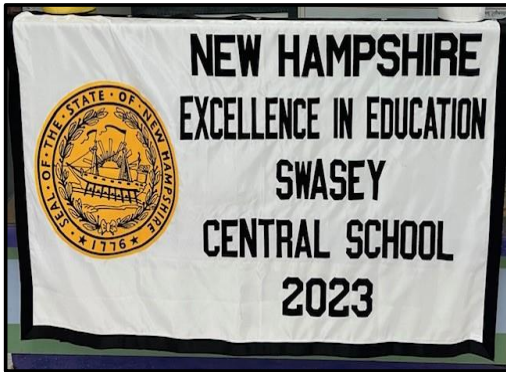
\$766,000

Swasey Solar Project

42

42.This cost is the solar bond principal and interest. It is scheduled to yield an almost \$200K credit next year and net \$40K/yr after the 7-year bond is paid. Its Net Present Value is ~\$300,000, meaning a gain of that amount in today's dollars after all expenses. The project was approved at last year's School District Meeting **and – as mentioned – it is now generating electricity.**

Swasey Budget – *What's in It?*



Swasey Excellence

43

43. And finally, Swasey Central School, recently recognized for excellence in education, has done it again.

Swasey Budget – *What's in It?*



**“... Saves
\$1,600,000”**

44

44. Because, they AGAIN have the lowest cost per student for any town in SAU16! Credit to the students, staff, parents, and school board.

That is an average savings of \$1.6M each year to the taxpayers of Brentwood!

Swasey School and the Town of Brentwood have much to be proud of!

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Budget Committee and Selectboard **RECOMMEND** at Town Meeting voting in favor of the town operating budget **and warrant articles 1 – 9 presented here tonight. Article 10 is...and article 11 is ...**
- The Swasey budget is also **RECOMMENDED** by the Budget Committee (it is not reviewed by the Selectboard).
- The County and **COOP** budgets are not reviewed by the Budget Committee or the Selectboard. **COOP** will be on the **March 11** ballot.

45

45. So, what do we have for Recommendations?

READ SLIDE

TAX RATE

- **Please keep in mind we have only addressed budget appropriations and *estimated* revenues and *estimated* expenditures here.**
- **In October, the State will assess revenues, credits, expenditures, and changes in the Town's valuation to establish our actual tax rate.**

46

46. READ SLIDE

CONCLUSION

- Reviewed 2025 Budgets and made voting recommendations accordingly
- Looked at **BUDGET vs TAX IMPACT vs TAX RATE**
- Reviewed our tax rate history
- Viewed some major items of cost

47

47. In Conclusion...that means the end is near...

We reviewed the 2025 Budgets **RECOMMENDED BY BOTH THE Budget Committee and the Select Board.**

We then considered how that **BUDGET** might impact our **TAXES.**

We reviewed our tax rate history.

Viewed some major items of cost.

MEETING AND VOTING DATES

- **Monday, March 3** **SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING** **Swasey Gym, 6PM**
 - To vote on Swasey School budget and other warrant articles
- **Tuesday, March 11** **TOWN ELECTION** **Swasey Gym, 7AM-7PM**
 - To vote for local candidates, Cooperative School District Budget, other warrant articles
- **Saturday, March 15** **TOWN MEETING** **Swasey Gym, 9AM**
 - To vote on town Operating Budget and other warrant articles
 - **?Childcare will be provided 8:30-12:30PM only?**

48

48. Please note the meetings yet to come, all at the Swasey Gym...READ... Child care will be provided at the Town Meeting?

QUESTIONS?
COMMENTS?
SUGGESTIONS?

49

49. We believe our committee's work has been thorough and its recommendations are in the best interest of maintaining what we have in Brentwood, while at the same time planning for future needs. Now we would like to know your thoughts. We are open for Questions, Comments, or Whatever...



50

APPROPRIATIONS VS EXPENDITURES

- All Budget Appropriations must be funded
 - Allows municipality to make expenditures (actual amount spent)
- All may not be spent
 - Fire: 2 FT – unfilled
 - Hwy: salt – mild winter
 - Hwy: unused PT plow drivers – mild winter
- Unspent funds remain in General Fund... Until...

51

51. NOW, A WORD ABOUT EXPENDITURES:

- To start, All Budget appropriations must be fully funded. This allows the municipality to spend for these purposes. The amount actually spent is called EXPENDITURES.

- However, the FUNDING may not all be spent. For example, at the moment there are 2 full-time Fire positions that have not been able to be filled for a few months. Also, when winters are mild, less salt is used and fewer Part Time plow drivers are needed.

- These appropriated, but unspent funds, remain in the General Fund. UNTIL...

APPROPRIATIONS VS EXPENDITURES

- October: Unspent classed as Unassigned Fund Balance
 - ~ \$1.9 M
 - ~ 12% of Total Tax Effort
- Selectboard retains some to pay bills until new taxes collected
 - Rest reduces taxes in the **current year**
- State then sets current year tax rate
 - Tax bills sent out

52

52. UNTIL OCTOBER, when the unspent amount is classified as an Unassigned Fund Balance. Typically, for Brentwood, this is about \$2.0M and it averages about 12% of our Total Tax Effort.

- The SB retains some of this to pay bills until new taxes can be collected. All of the rest is used to reduce taxes IN THE CURRENT YEAR.

- Then, as soon as the State confirms the tax rate, tax bills are sent out.

PAUSE

AND YOU KNOW THE REST OF THE STORY...

REVALUATION 2025

- Required by State every 5 years
- Currently about 66% of market
- Revaluation to 100% means about 50% increase
- However, Town taxes as a whole will increase **ONLY** to the extent the budget increases

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53. READ SLIDE

REVALUATION 2025

- Individual property taxes may fluctuate
 - Typically 1/3 up, 1/3 down, and 1/3 no change
- Some individual properties may increase more than others
 - Apply for abatement
 - Form at Town office

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54. Individual property taxes may fluctuate: typically, a third go up, a third go down, and a third do not change. Results should be known by September.

However, some individual properties may increase more than others. If you believe this is the case with your property, there is a procedure for appealing for an abatement. It starts with obtaining a form at the Town Office called “Taxpayer’s RSA 76:16 Abatement Application to Municipality”.

Now, if your valuation is LOWER than you think it should be, so your taxes are accordingly lower, well...

Swasey Budget – *What's in It?*



\$228,000

Student Transportation

55

34. This one also needs no introduction.

Town Budget – *What's in It?*



\$97,000
Sand/Salt
Cold Patch

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29. The \$91K budgeted here is **about half what is required** in a serious snow year. **The other half is being encumbered and – if not used – will be placed in a Capital Reserve Account for future years.**

It is mostly for Salt, but the sand price is up and it has become harder to get.

TOTAL BUDGET WITH DEFAULT COOP

	Budget Amount	Budget Change	Percent Change
Town OB with ARPA + WA	7,388,269	704,507	10.5%
County Budget	648,706	44,311	7.3%
Swasey + Solar	7,459,745	381,113	5.4%
Cooperative School DEFAULT Brentwood portion 15%	10,785,137	334,228	3.2%
Total	26,281,857	1,464,159	5.9%

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18P. With the DEFAULT COOP budget increase of 3.2%, the bottom line increase is 5.9%.

Property Tax Commitment per Capita

2022	Tax per Capita, \$
North Hampton	4,488
Rye	4,180
Stratham	3,830
Kensington	3,753
Hampton	3,749
East Kingston	3,662
Newfields	3,595
Brentwood	3,442
Exeter	3,384
Kingston	3,054
Epping	2,876
Fremont	2,584
Danville	2,496

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Another way to compare the tax burden to property owners is with **Property Tax Commitment per Capita**. This indicates on average how much tax each resident pays.

Brentwood at \$3,442 per capita is again average and close to the median (in red). Towns that are similar to Brentwood are Exeter, Newfields, East Kingston, Hampton, and Kensington.

But now, let's notice something else interesting here. The three with the highest per capita tax are highlighted: North Hampton, Rye and Stratham. However, if **we go back to the previous slide**, these towns actually have the lowest tax rate (mill rate)! How can this be?

This distortion happens because the tax rate – expressed as mill rate or tax per \$1000 of valuation – is based on property valuation, which is very high in these towns. This masks the amount of tax dollars actually paid per resident.

For example, if a high valuation town needs to raise \$10,000 from a property valued at \$500,000, its tax rate would be \$20 per thousand:

$$\$20 \times 500 = \$10,000$$

However, if a low valuation town needs to raise the same \$10,000 from a property valued at only \$400,000, its tax rate would need to be higher, \$25 per thousand:

$$\$25 \times 400 = \$10,000$$