

**APPROVED**

**Town of Brentwood  
Budget Committee Hearing  
Minutes of March 17, 2011**

*Present:* Elyse Seeley (Chair), Bill Faria, Krista Steger, Malcolm Allison, Bob Mantegari, Diane Vosgien (School Board Representative). Invited visitor: Doug Cowie, School meeting moderator

*Absent:* Tracie May, Jeff Bryan (Select Board Representative)

*Public present:* Amy Wilson, Lisa Swasey, Sheila Lane (BTA teacher).

Chairperson Elyse Seeley called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

1. Motion to approve the draft minutes from February 7, 2011 Public Hearing.  
Bob/Malcom 4 -0, 2 abstentions
2. Motion to approve second draft minutes from February 7, 2011 meeting,  
Bob/Malcom 4-0, 2 abstentions

Welcomed new members, Krista and Diane, and re-elected Bob. Visitor Doug Cowie and greetings to public present.

**Election of Officers:**

Chair – Elyse Nominated Bob/Bill 5-0 with nominee abstaining

Secretary – Bill Nominated Bob/Malcom 5-0 with nominee abstaining

Bob offered to back up secretary if needed

Elyse discussed our meeting routine for new members, our planning process, meeting with Selectmen early on, attendance expectations. Suggested we might want to look at Budget Committee by-laws from other towns (eg: Salem) and consider creating our own by-laws to guide our process.

**Recap of Budgets and Revenue**

- ◆ Elyse reminded us of BudCom roles and responsibilities per RSA 32: we are advocates for the taxpayers and we should be respectful and professional at Saturday's School Budget meeting. We discussed the differences and changes from our recommended budgets and the school board.
- ◆ Recap of tax impacts, revised now due to reduced revenues expected (on MS7 form). Both School Board and BudCom budgets now have + tax impacts. We received revenues after our budget hearing. Next year hope to have these earlier in the budget process for planning more accurately.
- ◆ We received a copy of the just presented list of possible maintenance issues at the school (handed out at the Swasey School Board meeting earlier this week on Monday). This was a listing of requests justifying why the school needs more than the roof amounts we had discussed of 63,000. Dianne explained that School Board also received this information on Monday as well. No votes or action taken as too late in budget process. Elyse suggested to Dianne it may be helpful

to have a written capital improvement plan from Dick Wendell for next year's budget, so there is a cost/schedule for budget committee and for the School Board, avoiding this delay in info.

- ◆ Doug reviewed with the budget committee his intentions and process for Saturday's School Budget meeting. He had previously reviewed these same moderator rules with the School Board at the Monday meeting. He intends to have a secret ballot for the teacher contract and that there is no requirement to keep the polls open for an hour. He will call the vote, the voting will take place and the results will be announced. He also suggested that *no reconsideration* motions be made after votes are taken to ensure no one tries to revisit issues and votes after votes have been taken and announced. This is a method to ensure fairness in all the issues being considered at Saturday's meeting, as people depart after votes. The rules are simple and they are the moderator's rules. He will open with the operating budget of the school, and then will follow the warrants as posted. Both the budget committee and school board will have an opportunity to speak to the issues. Confirmed that the Chair will represent Budget Committee at the meeting.

#### **New Business:**

- ◆ Malcolm attended the School Board meeting on Monday. Elyse asked if he would speak to the warrants on the maintenance issues at the Saturday meeting. Bob will address Warrant Article #6, new Building Construction article. Elyse summarized again that we should be professional and accurate in our comments at the meeting. She pointed out that almost all the suggested reductions in our recommended budget are raises and ways for the school board to meet our recommendations, but the decisions are ultimately up to the voters on Saturday and the School Board allocations.

#### **No public comments.**

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday August 29, at 7 pm, prior to Labor Day holiday.

Motion to adjourn at 9:05. Bob/Bill 5-0

Adjourned

Minutes respectfully submitted by

William C Faria