

Approved

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

*Present:* Elyse Seeley (Chair), Bill Faria, Krista Steger, Bob Mantegari, Malcolm Allison, Jeff Bryan (Select Board Representative) .

*Absent:* Tracie May, Dianne Vosgien (School Board Representative),

*Public present:* Lisa Swasey, Crystal Buswell, Kathy Carson, Jody MacBride, Sheila Lane.

Chairperson Elyse Seeley called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

1. BTA asked to tape meeting. Also proceeded to make their own copies of disseminated drafts/notes with portable copier brought in.
2. Motion to approve the draft minutes from October 3, 2011. Malcom/Bill, approved, 5-0, 1 Abstention.
3. Chair proceeded to begin agenda with voting items first (out of agenda order) as we may lose our legal quorum at 8PM.

Town Budgets

**Welfare, 4442-35**, Motion, Malcom/Bill. Increased due to direct assistance. \$6,799 Approved, 5-1.

**Financial, Tax and Assessing, 4150-07**, Motion Bob/Jeff. Increased due to request for additional hours in summer to prepare paperwork and audit. \$50,828 Approved, 5-1.

**Financial, Tax and Assessing, 4150-07**, Motion, Malcom/Bob, \$28,851 Approved, 6-0.

**Cemetery, 4195-25**, Motion, Malcom/Bill, \$7,601 Approved, 6-0.

**Executive, 4130-01**, Motion, Malcom/Bill, Select Board declined 2% cola. \$27,690 Approved, 5-1.

**Town Meeting, 4130-03**, Motion, Bob/Malcom, \$3,001 Approved, 6-0.

**Elections, Registrations and Vitals, 4140-06**, \$8,401 Budget deferred because the numbers do not seem correct based on last year's budget numbers. More information will be requested.

**Health Officer, 4419-31**, Motion Bob/Krista, \$100 Approved, 6-0.

**Emergency Management, 4290-27**, Motion, Malcom/Bob, \$7,050 Approved, 6-0.

**Regional Associations, 4197-32**, Motion, Bob/Malcom, \$18,788 deferred. Elyse to request Sue to attend a meeting to provide an overview of the various agencies funded by this budget. Also, some of the agencies seem to be missing

requests from the list. Jeff will get additional information and clarify status for VNA, Hospice, Red Cross, Sexual Assault Support, Big Brother and New Outlook.

### **Budget Status (Select Board)**

Jeff provided the committee with the remaining budget appointment Selectman's schedule. All are welcome to attend.

The Select Board approved a 2% cola for all town employees. As Elyse pointed out, she asked Karen for the total dollar impact/number of this cola, and it will be between \$17,500 and \$18,000 dollars. Elyse also noted that the school budget has a surplus from the capital improvements reserve of approximately 100,000 dollars that will be returned to the general fund, and this will more than offset this increase with no impact on taxes. Of course we must all keep in mind that the state has not yet set the tax rate and we will not know that until late November.

### **Budget Status (School Board)**

Deferred: School Board has a meeting tonight.

### **Recap of Library Budget Status**

We reviewed the status of the library budget since some of the committee was not available for the meeting with the library search committee. Recap of search for new full time librarian with the pending retirement of the current librarian. The search committee provided the job description. Elyse pointed out that our role is to review the library budget and make a recommendation on the total, bottom line. We are not in a position to vote on a director need or position. The Select Board has given its approval for this new position. This committee will vote on the total budget for the library, as we do for all the departments.

### **Other Business**

We reviewed the town's existing Capital Improvement Program (CIP). It appears all the items that had been targeted have been completed with the exception of addition to the existing highway department building. It was noted that the CIP expires in 2012. This was the first CIP and there is no precedent for this group.

### **Public Comment**

Crystal Buswell voiced her support for the library and retiring director.

Kathy Carson noted in the 10/3 minutes (approved) the BTA request to tape the meeting and to make copies of handouts occurred before we called the meeting to order.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday November 7, 2011, at 7 pm

Motion to adjourn at 8:15.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

William C Faria