

**Town of Brentwood  
Budget Committee Hearing  
Minutes of December 13, 2010**

*Present:* Elyse Seeley (Chair), Bill Faria, Ken Christiansen, Tracie May, Charlie Gargaly (Swasey School Board Rep.), Malcolm Allison, and Bob Mantegari

*Absent:* Jeff Bryan (Selectmen's Rep.)

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

WELCOME

1. Correspondence and communications to committee
2. Welcome to guests: Superintendent Morgan, Principal Ostrowski, members of the SCS School Committee, teachers and union association representatives

OLD BUSINESS

3. Approval of past Minutes
  - a. BudComm Minutes from December 6, 2010 meeting. Elyse requested that the minutes be updated to include the amount of each budget that was approved by the BudComm. Tracie to update and re-send. Committee to vote on 1/3/11.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Report from Charlie on behalf of the SCS Board
  - Malcolm had previously prepared a set of questions for the SCS School Committee based on preliminary numbers. Charlie brought them to the School Board for answers.
  - A review of the answers and a discussion of the conversation is as summarized: The +\$36K in the teaching salary line is based on an estimate of the cost of proposed increases to existing salaries (negotiations are still underway with the Teacher's Unions). Increase of +\$4K for Consulting Services is tied to increased needs for ESL (English as a Second Language); Computer Equipment costs +\$8K (replacing 7 computers due to age); Principal's Office +\$15K (longevity bonus for Principal - 5 years ago, an offer of a performance bonus was turned down in favor of the longevity bonus. The amount becomes part of her retirement package if she retires within the next 3 years.)
  - Review of SCS Budget line items
  - Salary related (regular) +\$46K (assumes successful passage of salary negotiations by Union)
  - Salary (Special Education) -\$136K (assumes that current reduction in number of children with special education needs will continue. This line item is not controllable. If new children come into the system with IEP needs, the savings will not materialize.

- Support (Regular) \$10K reduction
- Support (Sp Ed) \$17K increase
- Insurance and benefits \$60K increase – due to Town covering an increasing proportion of Retirement costs that the State will no longer cover
- Support Services \$16K increase
- General Administrative \$27K – Put under legal costs to cover the Teacher’s contractual Step Increases from current contract in the event that the Evergreen legal negotiations are unsuccessful/or legal defense emanating from Evergreen.
- School Administration \$16K increase
- Discussion of contract negotiations underway. Estimated cost of pay increases under the proposed Union negotiations: Year 1 @ 1% = \$15K; Year 2 @ 2% = \$60K, and Year 3 @ 2% = \$58K. These figures do not include the cost of associated benefits or the step increases, which are automatic.
- Non-salary expenses in total are budgeted \$8K reduction.
- Transportation is a contractual item and will increase \$5K next year.
- The total budget for SCS as proposed is \$5,209,590. This is a 0.7% increase before Debt Service ( a 3.8% decrease), and a 0.4 % overall increase over the **adopted** 2010-2011 budget.

5. Voting on individual town department budgets that have been approved by the Selectmen.

- Anticipate Fire Budget next week. Ken asked for a piece of information re: # of on-call Fire fighters who are Brentwood residents vs. non-residents.
- Executive Office. Malcolm proposed/Bob seconded to table a vote until January. Need additional information on annual medical exam costs.
- The following INDIVIDUAL BUDGETS were reviewed and approved as proposed:

- \$180,501            Mary Bartlett Library (voted 6:1)
- \$ 33,753            Recreation ( 8% reduction yr over yr) (Unanimous)
- \$ 1,021              Joint loss Management (Unanimous)
- \$ 67,795            Town Administrator (Unanimous)
- \$ 700                Budget Comm. (= a 12.5% reduction) (Unanimous)

6. NEXT MEETING: January 3, 2011.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:45 pm with no further discussion.