

Approved

**Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee Meeting
Minutes of January 21, 2013**

Present: Elyse Seeley (Chair), Bill Faria, Malcolm Allison, John Lyon, Krista Steger, Bob Mantegari, Dianne Vosgien (School Board Representative), Ken Christiansen (Selectmen Rep).

Visitors: None

Chairperson Elyse Seeley called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Motion to approve draft minutes from January 14, 2013. Malcolm/Bob, Approved, 7-0-1 abstention (Krista)

Motion to approve draft minutes from Public Hearing, January 14, 2013, Malcolm/Bob, Approved with correction, 7-0-1 abstention (Krista).

Correspondence: None.

1. Bridge Repair, 4900-70-825 – Warrant Article to add \$75,000.00 to the existing capital reserve for bridge replacement and repairs. Motion to discuss, Bob/Krista. Some discussion concerning amount. Motion to approve, in the amount of \$75,000.00, approved 8-0.

Other Business:

1. Bob stated he has heard a rumor that there is a citizen's petition circulating asking for a Town vote to eliminate Budget Committee as a legal entity. Motion to discuss, Bob/Bill. Elyse explained that this constitutes a change in Government, so if signatures are cleared, a ballot vote would be held for one hour with a simple majority necessary. Ken stated he signed but did not originate the petition and believes Budcom is not necessary because Board of Selectmen (BOS) can handle the function of the Budget Committee. When queried, he stated there was no conflict of interest and he thinks Budcom and this Board should be eliminated. There was a vigorous discussion, including questions of how the committee members could conduct the business of the Budcom without the trust and confidence in the Board membership. Members expressed lack of confidence in Ken since he does not assign value to the role of our legal mandate. It was suggested to Ken that if he feels this way he should request the BOS appoint someone else to the committee to be the Selectmen's representative. Ken disagreed and further stated he has not advised the BOS about his opinion nor about his support of the petition. He agreed to do so at their next meeting. The Chair stated a need for mutual respect for the members of this Board in order to do our job for the Town. She presented this disruption as example of how the Budget Committee members' lack of mutual trust and respect undermines the function of this Board and of the process. Krista questioned whether we need to formally prepare for defense of Budcom as an entity. Elyse felt that our work speaks for itself, and any one of us individually should feel free to get up at Town Meeting to present an opinion.
2. Bob made a Motion for a vote of "no confidence" to be taken and requested that the Chair send a letter to the Board of Selectmen to appoint a new representative to serve on Budcom. This is based on the fact that Ken admittedly does not support this Board, feels our work is superfluous and the legal entity eliminated; and he no longer has the trust of the Committee to do this job according to his oath. Motion approved, 5-0, 3 abstentions (appointees Ken, Diane, and Chair).

Our next meeting will be scheduled after Town Meeting, unless a new appropriation is presented to the BOS prior to February 3rd.

8:35 pm, Motion to adjourn, Bob/Diane, approved 8-0

Minutes respectfully submitted by William C Faria