

Approved

**Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee**
Minutes of November 17, 2014

Present: Elyse Seeley (Chair), Bill Faria, John Lyon, Melissa Litchfield, (School Board Representative), Malcolm Allison, Krista Steger. Jeff Bryan (Selectmen Rep), Barbara Zvodar.

Excused Absence: Dianne Vosgien, (School Board Representative),

Visitors: Kim Woods, Lisa Swasey, Rob Wolchuck, Ken Christiansen, Kevin Lemoine.

Chairperson Elyse Seeley called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

1. Motion to approve draft minutes from November 3, 2014, with corrections, Jeff/Barb, Approved, 6-0-1 abstention (Jmelissa).

BUDGETS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. **Conservation Commission – 4611-50:** Motion to reopen, Malcolm/Jeff. Rob Wofchuck was invited to address the increase. Rob advised the increase is to be used to inform the town on activities the Commission is working on, including storm water at the library, school, etc. This has not been done recently but has been done in the past. He told us he has discussed getting assistance from NH DES, piggybacking on some of their efforts, and this will save us money. In addition, they are pursuing grant money to offset some of the costs with projects at the town office, the highway shed and the school. They plan to produce brochures, signage etc to inform the public of their activities and how they benefit everyone in town. Motion to approve, in the amount of \$8,665.00, Jeff/Malcolm, approved, 4-2-1 abstention..
2. **Debt Service – 4723-60:** Motion to approve the amount of \$341,110.00, Jeff/Malcolm, approved, 7-0.
3. **Fire Department – 4220-19:** Chief Lemoine invited to address the Fire Department budget increases. He advised that he needs additional money to pay for weekend coverage because he has trouble getting personnel for weekends, especially in the summer months. He wants to pay for both weekend days to ensure there is someone on duty on the weekends. In addition, he wants an increase in the Chief's salary that is commensurate with similar towns in the state. There is a step increase for two full time firemen. In response to a request for additional information, Kevin will provide total fire calls for the year, and a breakdown of calls specific to Brentwood. Motion to approve, in the amount of \$384,105.00, Jeff/ No Second. Motion to table pending actual expenses for the year and fire calls information, Malcolm/John. Approved to table, 6-1.

4. **Brentwood EMS – 4215-18:** Motion to approve, in the amount of \$97,224.00, Jeff/No second. Motion to table, pending actual expenses for the year, Malcolm/John, approved to table, 6-1.

BOARD of SELECTMEN Update

Jeff advised the Selectmen plan to vote on a new trash collection contract at the next meeting (November 18, 2014). The Board is considering a couple of bids and he expects the costs to decrease with potential for a locked-in 5 year contract.

There was discussion of how impact fees are allocated, and this formula was approved and implemented by the Planning Commission some years ago. Fees collected from new building permits are divided among the Fire Department, Police Department, Library, School and Town Office buildings.

SWASEY SCHOOL Board Update

Elyse obtained information from Amy regarding school contribution to tax rate. \$1.31 rate with .53 increase from Swasey and .57 increase from Coop. Swasey fund balance return was \$143,278 and Coop, based on our student ratio was \$512,238.00. These added to other revenues.

Melissa distributed a hand-out that shows current enrollment, student teacher ratios, and projected enrollment and ratios for next year. Elyse inquired about an incentive to retire letter distributed to the teachers but Melissa stated she was unable to discuss as this was a matter that was taken up in a non-public session. She will confirm and get back to us at our next meeting. She will distribute the Swasey budget electronically prior to our next meeting.

Public Comment: None

Next meeting will be December 1, at 7PM.

8:24 pm, Motion to adjourn, Jeff/Barb, approved 7-0