

**Town of Brentwood**  
**Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office**  
Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2019

*Present:* Keith Levitsky (Chair), Liz Faria, Melissa Hanlon, Melissa Litchfield, Kris Magnusson, Bob Mantegari

*Excused absence:* Michelle Siudut

*Visitors:* Jeff Donald, Bill Faria, Karen Clement

Keith Levitsky called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Michelle provided the following tax impact for what has passed so far:

\$.293 for Selectmen's approved budget and \$.277 for BudCom approved budget. That is a \$117, \$110 increase respectively.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Liz Faria to discuss minutes of previous meeting.

Corrections were made. Motion by Liz Faria, seconded by Bob Mantegari to accept the minutes of the January 14 2019 meeting as amended; passed 6-0-0

**Budgets**

*Government Buildings.* Motion by Liz Faria, seconded by Bob Mantegari to discuss. At a previous meeting, this budget was tabled due to a request for clarification of electricity costs. In previous years, electricity had been included in the Fire Department budget. It has now been moved to Government Buildings. Motion by Liz Faria, seconded by Bob Mantegari to approve \$83,882; a 23.3% increase; passed 6-0-0.

*Regional Associations.* Motion by Kris Magnusson, seconded by Bob Mantegari to discuss.

Committee members comments included

- there should be a better process for approval of these funds
- the Town should not be funding private charitable organizations
- The Town should take care of our town, not private organizations
- We have no way to truly verify who/how many of our residents these organizations actually service
- Organizations should not automatically be added to the budget after a certain number of years
- We should have a reporting requirement for organizations who receive our funds
- There needs to be accountability from organizations

Karen Clement explained that there are certain things the Town Welfare department is required to provide to those who qualify, such as rental assistance and fuel assistance. State welfare provides other services such as food stamps.

Bob is asking the Selectboard to change the process next year. Instead of individual organizations being funded as we have been doing, we would have a set amount of monies available for such services; distribution would be determined by an advisory committee, working together with the welfare agent.

This budget request is for \$15,037. There are additional requests being put forth as warrant articles, which, if approved, will bring the amount to \$21,800.

Motion by Kris Magnusson, seconded by Liz Faria to level-fund this budget at last year's amount of \$14,837; failed 2-4-0

Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Melissa Hanlon to approve \$15,037, a 1.3% increase; passed 4-2-0

*Police.* Bob Mantegari stated Chief Arcieri wanted to bring her revised budget before the Selectmen before presenting it to the Budget Committee. The following comments were presented:

- Liz asked Karen Clement to provide current police department salaries for all employees, full and part time. She requested 3% and 4% increase projections on those salaries.
- Liz expressed concerns about the inaccuracies and misrepresentation of the numbers which have been presented.
- Liz feels part-timers are vital due to current understaffing, so part-time pay should be higher to attract more candidates.
- Kris expressed the need for an increase in part-timers vs adding overtime for full-timers because adding so many additional hours on full-timers could be a safety concern.
- Comparisons should be to last year's budget, rather than the last budget presented.

### **Warrant Articles**

Jeff Donald presented on behalf of the Conservation Commission. The Commission is working with SELT and the Martin family to conserve a portion of property on South Road.

Easement will be for a 24 acre piece of property that does not contain buildings. This piece of land would attach to lands already under easement in the same an area.

The property is valued at \$400,000. The landowner will receive \$313,000, donating what amounts to a value of \$111,350. They have applied for a USDA grant of \$212,000, allowing the owner to farm the land but not build on it. The Commission is asking the

Town for \$150,000 to complete the deal. Jeff noted that if the federal grant falls through, the purchase won't take place, so the funds would not be used.

There is approximately \$75,000 in the Conservation Commission budget, but that is geared to smaller projects, as opposed to purchases. Kris asked if there were any funds left from the \$2M bond passed several years ago; no, the remainder of those funds were spent on the Lyford property.

Kris asked if SELT would contribute to the funding; Jeff said this property was not on their list, so essentially no.

Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Kris Magnusson to support this warrant article; passed 5-0-0 (noting Melissa Hanlon stepped out for a phone call, so she was not present for the vote).

Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Kris Magnusson to block vote to support *articles 15-16-17-18-19* (Article 15 CASA, \$500; Article 16 Haven, \$3050; Article 17 One Sky, \$1500; Article 18 TASC, \$750; Article 19 Children Chamber Fund, \$1000); passed 4-1-1

*Veterans Credit Warrant Article.* Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Keith Levitsky to discuss Article 20. We have 127 veterans who qualify for this credit. Currently, the total credits amount to \$50,800. If this warrant article passes, it would increase that credit amount to \$63,500, essentially reducing the tax income to the town by \$12,700. Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Melissa Hanlon to support; passed 4-1-1.

*Solar Array.* Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Liz Faria to discuss. This is basically the loan amount for the solar array. This is year 3 of 7 and the amount is the same as last year. Karen said we are saving money. Motion by Liz Faria, seconded by Bob Mantegari to approve \$17,000; passed 6-0-0.

*Article 4 - CRF for Software Update.* Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Liz Faria to discuss. Current fund balance is \$66,000; our target for this fund is \$100,000. Motion by Liz Faria, seconded Bob Mantegari to approve \$20,000, which is the same amount approved last year; passed 6-0-0.

*Article 5 - CRF for Hardware.* Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded Liz Faria to discuss. Current fund balance is \$14,000. Motion by Liz Faria, seconded by Bob Mantegari to approve \$20,000, which is the same amount approved last year; passed 6-0-0.

*Article 6 - CRF for Revaluation.* Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Kris Magnusson to discuss. Current fund balance is \$77,000. Motion by Liz Faria, seconded by Bob Mantegari to approve \$25,000, which is the same as last year; passed 6-0-0

*Article 7 - CRF for Maintenance & Town Buildings.* Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Liz Faria to discuss. Current fund balance is \$35,000. Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Melissa Hanlon to approve \$50,000, which is the same amount approved last year; failed 1-5-0. The Committee felt that due to the conservation easement put forth this year, we would forego adding to this fund this year to minimize the tax impact.

### **Other Business**

Melissa Litchfield did not have official warrant articles to present for the school, but she said they will be requesting taking monies from the unreserved fund balance for Building Maintenance, Special Ed and Safety & Security.

Last day to file warrant articles is February 5th at 4 pm.

The filing dates to submit your name for office are Jan 28-Feb 1.

Motion to adjourn by Liz Faria, seconded by Kris Magnusson at 9:18 pm.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

January 28, 2019 at 7 pm - Budget Committee Meeting

February 11, 2019 at 6:30 pm - Budget Committee Meeting

February 11, 2019 at 7 pm - Budget Committee Public Hearing on Town Budget and Swasey

February 14, 2019 - Snow date for Budget Committee Public Hearing

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Siudut, Secretary