

Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office
Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2019

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

Visitors: George Abele, Valerie Rogers, David Menter, Karen Clement, Daphne Woss, Kathy St Hilaire, Andrew Bickim, Andy Gray, Gloria Buendia, Kip Kaiser

Keith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Motion by Kris Magnusson, seconded by Liz Faria to discuss the minutes of the last meeting. Motion by Kris Magnusson, seconded by Melissa Litchfield to accept the minutes of the January 28 2019 meeting as amended; passed 6-0-1

Updates from Selectmen & School Board

Melissa Litchfield thanked the Committee for supporting the Swasey school warrant articles. Principal Kew is actively looking for quotes to replace the cafeteria flooring; they believe they have the funds in the Maintenance fund and unreserved funds to cover this. Liz Faria stressed her desire to have funds taken from the maintenance fund rather than unreserved funds, as there is ample money in that fund.

Bob Mantegari said the Selectmen have not voted on any additional budgets. The deadline to submit warrant articles has passed.

Warrant Articles

CRF for town bridges. Motion by Liz Faria, seconded by Bob Mantegari to discuss. The warrant article is to add \$50,000 to the fund. This is the same amount raised last year. There is currently \$435,000 in this fund. Motion by Kris Magnusson, seconded by Bob Mantegari; passed 7-0-0.

CRF for road repairs. Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Liz Faria to discuss. The warrant article is to add \$400,000 to the fund, which is \$50,000 more than last year. It was noted that we usually put \$50,000 into the Highway Building CRF, which was not approved. The increase is to cover costs of paving and to replace a culvert. Motion by Liz, seconded by Bob to ; 6-0-1

CRF for highway vehicles. Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Melissa Litchfield to discuss. The warrant article is to add \$15,000 to this fund, which currently has \$185,000. Motion by Kris Magnusson, seconded by Bob Mantegari to approve; passed 6-1-0

Budgets

Kris Magnusson expressed her desire to re-open certain budgets. She explained it was purely with respect to salary increases. She would like to see standards in salary increases and merit across town departments. She suggested we form a subcommittee to recommend procedures and policies, which could be presented jointly with the Selectmen, prior to the next budget season; said she would be willing to be on that subcommittee.

Code Enforcement. Motion by Kris Magnusson, seconded by Liz Faria to re-open Code Enforcement, passed 5-2-0. Motion by Kris Magnusson, seconded by Michelle Siudut to approve \$68,545, to represent a 5% salary increase; failed 2-4-1. Motion by Liz Faria, seconded by Michelle Siudut to approve \$69,705 to represent a 7.5% salary increase; tied/failed 3-3-1

Recreation. Motion by Kris Magnusson, seconded by Liz Faria to discuss. Wage started at \$17 in July, went to \$18 at 6 months; asking for \$19. Motion by Kris Magnusson, seconded by Bob Mantegari to close discussion; passed 7-0-0

Discussion ensued about the budgets for Town Clerk & Tax Collector. It was explained that the Town Clerk did not get a raise at the time she was promoted from Deputy Clerk. The salary line increase this year reflects the job change and a raise.

Highway. Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Keith Levitsky to re-open this budget, to bring it in line with the amount approved by Selectmen. The concern is, if the Road Agent's bonus is not included in the budget, it will come up again at Town Meeting. Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Keith Levitsky to approve \$420,947; passed 5-2-0

The Committee discussed the idea of raising salary amounts during Town Meeting and if it was legal. The feeling of the Committee is that is a bad precedent and should not be allowed at Town Meeting, and ask the Selectboard to address this.

Michelle provided the tax impact of the budgets and warrant articles approved by Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

Selectmen approved Municipal Budget \$.270/\$1000 - 3.92% - \$107.86

Warrant Articles \$1,030,495 approved -- \$.46/\$1000 - \$184.99 on a \$400K home.

Total tax impact of Selectmen approved budgets and warrant articles \$292.85

BudCom approved Municipal Budget \$.262/\$1000 - 3.81% - \$104.80

Warrant Articles \$805,495 approved -- \$.07/\$1000 - \$28.37 on a \$400K home.

Total tax impact of BudCom approved budgets and warrant articles \$133.17

Kris reminded the Committee that we are charged to review the revenue and audit, per our Bylaws. The Committee members should also be reviewing the Bylaws each year.

Motion by Kris Magnusson, seconded by Bob Mantegari to adjourn; passed 7-0-0 at 8:46 pm

Upcoming Meetings

February 11, 2019 at 6:30 pm - Budget Committee Meeting (Snow date February 14)

February 11, 2019 at 7 pm - Budget Committee Public Hearing (Snow date February 14)

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Siudut, Secretary