

Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee Public Hearing at Brentwood Town Office
Minutes of Public Hearing on February 11, 2019

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

Visitors: Doug Cowie, Kahty Barley (Exeter Newsletter), Daphne Woss, Jeremy Worcester, Christine Belanger, George Abele, Letty Bedard, Lois DeYoung, Bill Faria, Wayne Robinson, Carole Beliveau, Diane Robinson, Sherry Robinson, Duane Demeritt, David Menter, Andrew Giaquinta, Jane Byrne, Kim Saxton, Adam Veinotte, Jim Dineen, Virginia Fuller, Elza Silva, Mark Kennedy, Brett Ramsdell, Kelly Ramsdell, Louri Hannan, Tim Hannan, Jonathan Ellis, Michael Lahan.

The Chairman called the public hearing to order at 7:02 pm.

The Chairman presented a Powerpoint reviewing budgets for the Town and for Swasey School, as well as warrant articles for the Town and Swasey School. Projected tax impacts of those budgets and warrant articles were outlined, in addition to the projected tax impact of the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District budget and warrant articles. It was explained where residents will be able to vote on the numbers presented.

Town Budget. Budget Committee and Selectmen approved \$3,994,041

This is \$.267/\$1000 = \$106.73 on a \$400K home

Town Warrant Articles.

Budget Committee approved \$805,495.

\$.07/\$1000 - \$28.37 on a \$400K home.

Selectmen approved \$1,030,495

\$.46/\$1000 - \$184.99 on a \$400K home

Swasey School Budget. Budget Committee and Selectmen approved \$5,744,220

This is \$.27/\$1000 = \$108 on a \$400K home

Swasey Warrant Articles. Budget Committee and Selectmen approved three. All of the warrant articles will come from unreserved fund balance, so these will not increase taxes.

Total tax impact of Town and Swasey School budgets and warrant articles approved by the Budget Committee is \$.607/\$1000 which is \$242.80 on a \$400K home

Total tax impact of Town and Swasey School budgets and warrant articles approved by the Selectmen is \$1./\$1000 which is \$400.85 on a \$400K home

The Budget Committee and Selectmen have no authority over the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District budget or warrant articles. We are presenting these numbers for informational purposes only, so you can see a total estimated tax impact.

Cooperative Budget.

Proposed budget of \$60,342,073 - \$.34/\$1000 - \$136 on a \$400K home

Default budget of \$59,852,502 - \$.19/\$1000 - \$76 on a \$400K home

Coop Warrant Articles.

CMS expansion. This is a request for a 20 year bond of \$17.8M.

\$.12/\$1000 - \$48 on a \$400K home for the first year only

Subsequent years will add an additional \$.46/\$1000 or \$184 on a \$400K home

Turf Replacement. This is a request to add \$50,000 to the CRF. Monies would come from undesignated fund balance so there would be no additional tax impact for this warrant article.

Total tax impact of the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District proposed budget and warrant articles is \$.46/\$1000 which is \$184 on a \$400K home

Total tax impact of the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District default budget and warrant articles is \$.31/\$1000 which is \$124 on a \$400K home

In summary, we are looking at tax increases anywhere from \$366.80 - \$584 on a \$400K home. If the CMS expansion passes, that alone will add an additional \$184 for 2020.

Important Dates

February 19, 2019 at 7 pm - Candidate Night at the Library

March 8, 2019 at 6:30 pm - Swasey School District Meeting at Swasey School (voting on Swasey School budget and Swasey School warrant articles; proposed amounts can be amended)

March 12, 2019, 7 am - 7 pm - Town Elections at Brentwood Recreation Center (election of town positions and school boards; also voting on Cooperative school budget and Cooperative warrant articles)

March 16, 2019, 9 am - Brentwood Town Meeting at Swasey School (voting on Town budget and town warrant articles; proposed amounts can be amended)

Public Comments

Kim Saxton: Came to show support for police officers; questioned why police officers are resigning; questioned raise amounts. It was explained the final budget approved included a 6% full time and 4% part time wage adjustment. It was further explained the role of this Committee

is fiduciary only. Questions and comments regarding staffing, procedures, etc should be directed to the Selectmen.

Jim Dineen: Suggests the allocation of the police department be reevaluated to better compensate officers

Diane Robinson: Expressed concern about Road Agent salary

Adam Veinotte: Expressed support of the Police Department. Questioned why the Budget Committee did not support \$100K for police facility. It was explained that the Committee tries to be cognizant of the tax impact when combining all budgets and warrant articles. The Committee also discussed the pros and cons of taking a bond versus establishing a capital reserve fund.

Brett Ramsdell: Commented that warrant articles and budgets are based on last year's approved budgets not the actuals; feels there should be more honesty in what is approved over what was spent. It was explained that departments are projecting figures and need to budget an amount high enough to (hopefully) cover unforeseen costs; that if the town doesn't budget enough, it cannot pay its bills. It was asked how much we are supposed to keep in reserves; Karen Clement said the recommended is to reserve at least 5% from year to year. Brett also inquired about the Conservation Easement.

Lois DeYoung: Wanted to express support for the idea of a bond rather than creating a capital reserve fund, in reference to the police facility

Motion by Kris Magnusson, seconded by Liz Faria to adjourn the public session at 7:57 pm; passed 7-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Siudut, Secretary