

**Town of Brentwood**  
**Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office**  
Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2019

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

*Visitors:* Chief Arcieri, Ken Christiansen, Dave Menter, Lisa Swasey, Kim Woods

Keith called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

Motion by Kris Magnusson, seconded by Liz Faria to discuss. Corrections were made. Motion by Liz Faria, seconded by Bob Mantegari to approve the minutes as amended; passed 7-0-0.

**Budgets**

*Police.* Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Liz Faria to discuss the Police budget. Chief Arcieri presented her proposed budget of \$938,549. That is \$112,757.50 or 13.65% more than last year's budget. The bulk of the increases are for salaries \$64,504 and uncontrolled costs \$41,270. Salary increases are 3% for full-time, except for Captain Roy whose actual increase is 8.5%, versus the 5% reflected in the Chief's presentation. These increases are based on state averages. Chief feels our current rates are prohibiting experienced applicants from applying. Chief would like to establish standard raise amounts or a step plan, as well as multi-year commitment for officers we train. We are currently down 2 staff. We will need to hire and train; outfitting and training a non-certified officer costs roughly \$32K. Due to decreased staff, we are paying more overtime.

There will be a warrant article to start a capital reserve fund for a police building.

Motion by Bob Mantegari to approve \$938,549. There was no second.

Kris Magnusson expressed her desire to go back and cap salary increases in all departments to 3% maximum, with a 5% for special circumstances.

There was discussion to reduce the proposed Captain's 8.5% increase down to 5%, not as a reflection of performance, but in consideration of keeping salary increases no greater than 5%. Chief said she would be supportive of that, so long as no other departments had salary increases greater than 5%.

Motion by Liz Faria, seconded by Kris Magnusson to table this budget pending receipt of the 2018 actual salaries, and a recalculation of adjusted Captain's salary; passed 4-3-0

*Animal control.* This budget is higher due to increase in hours and training/uniform costs for new officer. Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Kris Magnusson to approve \$9,841.70, an increase of 37.6%; passed 6-1-0

The Chief was thanked for her time and efforts presenting her budget.

Melissa Litchfield suggested benefits of town employees be revisited across the board.

Kris Magnusson asked what the projected increase of all combined approved budgets, including the requested budgets we have not yet voted on. At this point we are looking at a 4% increase.

*Highway.* Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Liz Faria to reopen the budget. Selectmen approved \$8000 bonus for the Road Agent, tied to performance. This is a result of last year's vote at Town Meeting to pay a bonus to the Road Agent. The salary for that position is already maxed. Several committee members expressed their concern that voting in an employee raise/bonus at Town Meeting is a bad precedent to set, and supporting this increase perpetuates bad protocol. Question raised regarding other staff salaries - one is not getting a raise, one is getting 3%. Motion by Melissa Litchfield, seconded by Bob Mantegari to approve \$420,947; passed 4-3-0

It was brought to the attention of the Chair that there were incorrect numbers listed for the Highway and Snow & Ice budgets. Motion by Liz Faria, seconded by Bob Mantegari to reopen both the Highway and Snow & Ice budgets for corrections.

Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Melissa Litchfield to approve \$420,947 for Highway; failed 3-4-0.

Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Liz Faria to approve \$131,696 for Snow & Ice; passed 7-0-0

Motion by Melissa Hanlon, seconded by Michelle Siudut to approve \$411,433 for Highway; passed 4-3-0

This will make the total DPW budget \$552,643, a 6.9% increase.

### **Other Business**

Motion by Bob Mantegari, seconded by Michelle Siudut to adjourn at 9:50 pm; passed 7-0-0.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

January 21, 2019 at 7 pm - Budget Committee Meeting

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

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Siudut, Secretary