

**Town of Brentwood**  
**Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office**  
Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2020

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

*Excused absence:* Liz Faria

*Guests:* Lois DeYoung, Ken Christiansen, Rob Wofchuck, Edie Shipley, Eric Trump, Kim Leo

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

Motion by Bob, seconded by Melissa H to discuss the minutes of the previous meeting. Changes were suggested. Motion by Keith, seconded by Bob to approve the minutes as amended; passed 6-0-0

**Update from Swasey**

Melissa L announced four teachers will be retiring, all of whom will need to be replaced. The buyouts will put a strain on the budget, as will the increased need for mentors. Melissa identified several uncontrolled costs.

At 7:11 pm there was a motion by Melissa L, seconded by Bob to go into nonpublic session per RSA Chapter 91A:3II a. Voting in favor were Melissa H, Keith, Melissa L, Kris, Bob, Michelle.

At 7:26 pm there was a motion by Bob, seconded by Kris to come out of non-public and seal minutes. Voting in favor were Melissa H, Keith, Melissa L, Kris, Bob, Michelle.

Motion by Melissa L, seconded by Bob, to re-open the Swasey budget; passed 6-0-0. The retiring teachers will have a large impact, so they are asking to return the budget amount to the original proposed. Motion by Melissa L, seconded by Melissa H to approve \$5,955,301; passed 4-2-0

There was discussion about what the BudCom can do to hold the SAU admin accountable and ensure oversight. Keith will inquire through Karen about the process and the cost for the BudCom to use the town lawyer for this purpose. He will return an answer to the Committee next week.

**Budgets**

*Mosquito Control.* Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to discuss. This is the same amount that was requested last year. Motion by Kris, seconded by Bob to approve \$30,500; passed 6-0-0

*Street Lighting.* Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to approve \$1, down from \$250 requested last year; passed 6-0-0

### **Warrant Articles**

*Conservation Commission.* Edie Shipley presented a warrant for \$140,000 to purchase an easement for the 35 acres of the Brentwood Game Farm. Motion by Bob, seconded by Kris to discuss. If this land is not conserved this land could end up with 20 houses. Edie said they are awaiting approval of the Governor; the state wants to close by the end of this week. The warrant is valid for five years, and has a fail clause, so if the deal falls through the money will return to the town. No additional tax impact because the amount requested and approved last year was not used. The easement is to protect the land from development; and will allow it to be used agriculturally. Motion by Bob, seconded by Kris to recommend; passed 5-0-1.

*CRF for Bridges:* Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to discuss. This fund currently has roughly \$580K. Last year the request was for \$50K. Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to recommend \$25K; passed 6-0-0

*Road Maintenance.* Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to discuss. Last year the request was for \$400K. Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to recommend \$350K; passed 6-0-0

*CRF for Highway Vehicles.* There is currently \$100,970 in this fund. Last year the warrant request was for \$15K. Motion by Kris, seconded by Michelle to recommend a reduced amount of \$25K; failed 2-4-0. Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to recommend the requested amount of \$50K; passed 4-2-0.

*CRF Fire Department Replacement Vehicle.* Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to discuss. It was noted that the Selectmen encumbered \$56K for a command vehicle. It was felt this was inappropriate, especially this close to town meeting when it could have been a warrant article. Discussion about re-opening the fire department budget, this was rejected. Motion by Bob, seconded by Melissa H to recommend \$25K; failed 1-5-0. Melissa H asked that the BudCom's disappointment in the encumbrance of these funds be made known to the Selectmen.

*Police Department Renovations.* Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to discuss. These funds are to add separate locker/showers for females and cells specific for juveniles. There was some confusion about whether or not we needed to vote on this. Bob will find out and come back to us next week. But in the meantime, Bob made a motion, Keith seconded to recommend \$30K, amount to come from unassigned fund balance; failed 2-4-0

*Police Facility Capital Reserve Fund.* Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to discuss. This is to establish a capital reserve fund for a Police Facility. Kris felt we should not establish a fund until we have a plan. Some funds have already been expended for preliminary plans. Motion by Michelle, seconded by Bob to recommend \$50K, passed 4-3-0

Motion to adjourn by Melissa L. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Monday, February 10, 2020 at 6:30 pm - Budget Committee Meeting

Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7 pm - Budget Committee Public Hearing

Tuesday, February 11, 2020 - Snow date for Budget Committee Public Hearing

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Siudut, Secretary