

Town of Brentwood

Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office

Meeting Minutes December 15, 2021

Present: Michelle Siudut (Chair), Lois DeYoung, Andy Artimovich, Alina Arida, Jack Mitchell, Anthony Phillips and Melissa Litchfield.

Visitors: Letty Bedard, Jon Morgan, Kim Leo, Fire Chief Joseph Bird, Katrina Tent Admin to Fire Chief, Selectman Ken Christiansen, Acting Police Chief Richard Sawyer.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Jack, seconded by Anthony to approve minutes, as amended, from the November 17, 2021 meeting. Motion passed 5-0-2.

Motion by Lois, seconded by Jack to approve minutes, as amended, from the December 1, 2021 meeting. Motion passed 5-0-2.

Andy put forward a request to live stream the meeting. After some discussion, the committee voted in favor.

Update from Selectmen/School Board

Andy (Selectmen's Rep) - Budget discussions and proposals to follow.

Melissa (School Board Rep) –School Board is still in contract negotiations with Swasey teachers. Treasurer did not resign. Co-op budget is a reduction. Swasey budget will come before this committee on January 19, with a 4% reduction. Mollie will present on the cafeteria.

Budgets to Review

Fire Department

Lengthy discussion with Chief Bird regarding the 66% increase in the Fire Department budget, which includes 2 additional full time Firemen for 24hour coverage and substantial pay increases for Chief, firefighters and ambulance personnel. Question to why last year's approved amount does not agree with what shows on this budget; Chief said it was due to FEMA income for personnel who worked at vaccination sites. That funding is not anticipated for next year. The Chief is planning to purchase a new ambulance in \$330-\$350K range.

- Motion by Melissa, seconded by Jack to table, pending Alina meeting with Chief Bird regarding pay matrix. Motion passed 7-0-0

Ambulance

Discussion only, as this Committee does not have authority over this budget.

Animal Control

Presentation by Acting Police Chief Richard Sawyer. They hope to fill this position so as not to utilize police officers' time. Motion by Melissa, seconded by Lois to approve \$6,000 Animal Control Budget (level funded); passed 7-0-0.

Police Department

Presentation by Acting Police Chief Richard Sawyer. Explained his background and how he came to be our acting chief. He is optimistic he will present a Police Chief candidate to Selectmen before year's end, hoping to have the new Chief in position by March. The Town should have a Chief, a Sergeant and 5 patrolmen (we currently have 3 patrolmen). Salary line is a reduction as new officers will come in at lower rates. Wage line increase as new Chief will be full time. Overtime line increase due to coverage as we are understaffed. Motion by Jack, seconded by Lois to approve \$1,014,438 Police Budget (14.94% increase); passed 7-0-0.

Visitor Comment: none

Upcoming Meetings:

- January 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm - Fire and Insurance budgets
- January 19, 2022 at 6:00 pm - Swasey School budget
- February 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm - Warrant articles (Snow date of February 10)
- February 9, 2022 at 7:00 pm - Public Hearing (Snow date of February 10)
- March 12, 2022 at 9 am - Town Meeting

Adjournment: Motion by Lois, seconded by Alina to adjourn. Passed unanimously, meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois DeYoung, Secretary