

Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office
Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2021

Present: Michelle Siudut (Chair), Melissa Litchfield, Andy Artimovich, Anthony Phillips, Jack Mitchell. Alina Arida (by phone)

Visitors: Wayne Robinson, Tom Walker, Kiki Doris-Wahl, Janice Weirs, Sue Mitchell, Aaron Kelly, Melissa Kennedy, Tammy MacNeil, Andrew Gray, Letty Bedard, Liz Faria, Kim Leo, Jon Morgan, Liz Mcconnell

Michelle called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Motion by Andy, seconded by Jack to allow Alina to attend the meeting by phone. Voting in favor were Jack, Anthony, Andy, Melissa and Michelle.

Minutes of the site visits to Police Station on May 20, 2021, Fire Station on July 12, 2021, Recreation Center on August 16, 2021, Highway Shed on October 4, 2021, Mary Bartlett Library on October 13, 2021 were presented. Motion by Jack, seconded by Anthony to accept the minutes of the site visits, as amended. Voting to accept were Alina, Jack, Anthony and Michelle; abstaining were Melissa and Andy; all site visit minutes accepted 4-0-2.

Minutes of the November 3, 2021 meeting were presented. Motion by Andy, seconded by Jack to approve. Voting to accept were Jack, Andy, Alina and Michelle; abstaining were Anthony and Melissa; minutes accepted 4-0-2.

Minutes of the November 17 meeting were presented. There were not enough members present, who were present at that meeting; minutes were held to approval until the next meeting.

Budgets

Recreation: Andy Gray presented. Reviewed items that needed fixing per our site visit. Alina requested a revenue report; Andy replied the committee has no control over the revolving fund. The Department has increased the number of events. The number of rentals are back to pre-covid numbers, but rentals tend to be hourly rather than blocks. Andy explained how the revolving fund works; the Rec Commission/Andy manage the revolving fund; Commission has to approve large expenditures; then the Selectmen sign off on all expenditures. Electrical, heat, oil and land maintenance are 55/45 split between the Department and the town. All line items are level funded except wages and related tax/benefit lines. Wage increase is 20%. Andy said he works more than his allotted hours, as he tries to attend as many events off hours as he can.

Unlike other towns, he has no support staff. The budget is a \$12,691 and 19.2% increase over last year. Motion by Anthony, seconded by Jack to approve \$78,620. Voting to approve were Jack, Anthony, Andy, Alina; voting to oppose were Melissa and Michelle; budget accepted 4-2-0. The Committee asked Andy to provide an analysis of revenue.

Highway. Wayne Robinson presented the budget. The biggest increase is the salary line. The budget is a \$24,436 and 6.5% increase over last year. Motion by Jack, seconded by Anthony to approve \$400,041. Voting to approve were Jack, Anthony, Andy, Alina, Melissa and Michelle; budget accepted 6-0-0.

Snow & Ice. Wayne Robinson presented the budget. The price of salt increased from \$50/ton last year to \$68/ton. The town does contract with one company to retain the best price. The budget is a \$30,974 and 18.8% increase over last year. Motion by Jack, seconded by Anthony to approve \$195,367. Voting to approve were Jack, Anthony, Andy, Alina, Melissa and Michelle; budget accepted 6-0-0.

Library. Director Janice Weirs, Treasurer Jim Clark presented. There was discussion about the Amphitheatre, which has been unusable for 2 years; currently doing site work for repairs and acquiring information from engineering firms. It will probably be a couple of years before it's usable again. Expect a warrant article to start CR fund, but they also hope to fundraise or find grant monies. It was asked if the Library operates on its own like the Rec Department. The director manages the employees, but there is an MOU by which the library falls under the town payroll and health insurance. A copy of this MOU was requested. It was asked if the library uses Impact fees. The answer was yes; this year they used it for a new sign. This budget is a \$13,478.13 and 5.4% increase over last year. Motion by Jack, seconded by Anthony to approve \$264,879.73; voting in favor were Jack, Anthony, Andy, Melissa and Alina; Michelle opposed; budget passed 5-1-0.

Street Lighting. Motion by Jack, seconded by Melissa to approve \$1 level funded from last year; voting to accept were Jack, Anthony, Andy, Melissa, Alina and Michelle; accepted 6-0-0.

Mosquito Control. Contract with Dragon Mosquito Control, they test and spray throughout the year for EEE and west Nile. Majority of funds are for testing. Motion by Jack, seconded by Melissa to approve \$30,200. Voting to accept were Jack, Anthony, Andy, Melissa, Alina and Michelle; accepted 6-0-0.

Legal. Motion by Jack, seconded by Andy to approve \$28,627 which is level funded. Voting to accept were Jack, Anthony, Andy, Melissa, Alina and Michelle; accepted 6-0-0.

Other Business

Fire - New wages went into effect Dec 1. Still looking for more staff

Police - timeline to hire a new chief has been set. Selectmen will do interviews week of Dec 13.

Question as to if there is help for elderly regarding taxes. There is an elderly exemption that can be applied for, which is based on income.

Motion by Jack to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Upcoming Meetings

Dec 15

Jan 5

Jan 12

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Siudut, Acting Secretary