

**Town of Brentwood**  
**Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office**  
Meeting Minutes of January 30, 2023

*Present:* Jack Mitchell (chair), Michelle Siudut (secretary), Lois DeYoung, Alina Arida, Anthony Phillips, Letty Bedard (Swasey rep), Russ Kelly (selectmen rep)

*Visitors:* Chief Bird, Sgt Justin Doty, Karen Clement, Liz McConnell, Janice Wiers

Jack called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Motion by Lois, seconded by Letty to approve the meeting minutes from January 5, 2023, as amended; approved 6-0-1

Michelle noted the current tax impact is roughly \$600 for just the Swasey budget and town budget, not to include any warrant articles or the SAU budget.

**Update from School Board**

Letty will present warrant articles later in the meeting.

**Update from Selectmen**

Russ had no news from selectmen.

**Warrant Articles**

CRF IT Hardware. Requesting \$25,000 be added to this fund; same as last year. The fund had \$63,174.04 as of November. This will maintain the annual cost to stay in 5-year replacement schedule. We have 3 physical servers. Question if body cameras are saved on servers; Sgt Doty said no they are on the cloud. Question if this will cover the new website; Karen said no they are hoping to use impact fees for that. New hosting for that website will be in IT budget.

Motion by Anthony, seconded by Lois to approve \$25,000; passed 7-0-0

CRF Revaluation. Requesting \$25,000 to be added to this fund; same as last year. Revaluations are every 5 years. There is currently \$84,901 in the fund. Next revaluation will occur in 2025. Last revaluation was \$102,000; abatements are additional cost.

Motion by Anthony, seconded by Alina to approve \$25,000; passed 7-0-0.

Road Repair. Requesting \$350,000 to be added to this fund; same as last year. Intent is to put top coat on Prescott, overlay on South Road, repair Mill Road depending on construction, possibly Brook Crossing.

Motion by Lois, second by Anthony to approve \$350,000; passed 7-0-0

CRF Highway Vehicles/Equipment. Requesting \$50,000 to be added to this fund; \$50,000 less than last year. There is currently \$70,171 in fund. This is for purchase, not maintenance. One purchase this year, looking to purchase another which will be around \$200K.

Motion by Lois, seconded by Alina to approve \$50,000; passed 7-0-0

CRF Maintenance of Town Buildings. Requesting \$25,000 to be added to this fund; \$25,000 less than last year. There is currently \$102,344 in the fund, but there are expenditures at the Grange and the Rec (paint) that have been approved but not yet paid which will amount to about \$25,000. This year they plan to replace windows at BRC, no estimated cost yet. Rec floors were done with impact fees.

Motion by Lois, seconded by Anthony to approve \$25,000; passed 6-1-0

CRF Construction of Highway Buildings. Requesting \$150,000 for the fund, which is currently depleted. This would help finish the interior of new storage shed to include office area, septic, well, partial heat. No money has been put in this fund since 2018.

Motion by Lois, seconded by Russ to approve \$150,000; passed 4-3-0

CRF Police Facility. Requesting \$25,000 for the fund, which currently has \$75,000. No funds requested last year. The Building Committee is looking at planning costs. They are reconnecting with the students who came up with original plans. To build, would require a bond.

Motion by Russ, seconded by Alina to approve \$25,000; passed 4-3-0

Full Time Police Officer. Requesting \$73,717 to pay for a new officer for April 1 through Dec 31. Sgt Justin Doty spoke on behalf of Chief Ventura. There are currently 8 full time (6 patrolmen and 2 admin); and 3 part time. Chief would ultimately like 12 (per federal statistics) full time. Hope to hire a full-time certified officer rather than a new recruit needing training, as the police academy is not running part time sessions. The need for more staff is to increase officer safety; this position would enable 2 people over night til 2 am. Calls are up and more dangerous; including domestic violence; increase in vehicle stops and arrests (41% over 5 years). The department is unified; and they have outside personnel interested in joining our PD. COPS grants are opening next month, which will be applied for; federal \$ to cover a salary; optimistic that our PD fits the criteria. The Department added an officer last year, which enabled them to cut the overtime monies for this year.

Motion by Alina, seconded by Russ to approve \$73,717; passed 6-1-0

CMP Amphitheater. Requesting \$200,000 to be added to the fund, which currently has \$48,300. Trustees are expecting to use \$50,000 in impact fees; and \$125,000 in ARPA funds. Total spend expected to be \$375,000 - \$400,000; but nothing confirmed and have not put out to bid yet. Trustees will look at grants to raise \$; they will do fundraisers, and the Friends will also.

The remodel will only be the outside area. There will be no access from upstairs to downstairs within the building; the elevator was eliminated due to costs.

Motion by Russ, seconded Alina to approve; passed 4-3-0

CRF Fire Vehicle. Requesting \$50,000 to be added to this fund; which is currently \$222,621. Chief is hoping to replace a vehicle in 2024. New engine is \$750,000 - million; a ladder truck is up to \$1.6 million. The newest vehicle is 2014; others are 1979 and 1984 (backup, reserve).

Motion by Russ, seconded by Letty to approve \$50,000; passed 4-3-0

First Responder (Fire/EMS) Radios. Requesting \$168,000 for 50 radios (radios are \$3K ea, with additional charges for antenna, battery, speaker, microphone, and installation which brings cost to about \$5K ea - with 5year warranty). Current radios are as old as 10 years old. Chief is requesting 50 units to cover every member of the department and some extras. Going with Kenwoods to save money (Motorola was additional \$100,000). Applied for grants, but not awarded funding this year. Discussion about starting a capital reserve fund for radios next year, and also initiate a maintenance program, which will be looked into for next year.

Motion by Michelle, seconded by Russ to approve \$168,000; passed 4-3-0

### **Swasey Warrant Articles**

Swasey School will have 3 warrant articles in addition to the operating budget of \$6,460,080, which this Committee previously approved.

Collective Bargaining for para-professionals, There are currently 26. For 2024 the increase is \$181,602; for 2025 the increase is \$57,769; for 2026 the increase is \$38,122 and in 2027 the increase is \$39,970. This is to provide health insurance (which they were not previously provided, district paying 80% for single and that same amount for couple or family) and contractual raises of 3.5% - 5% - 3% - 3% . This is a .25/\$1000 tax impact.

Motion by Letty, seconded by Alina to approve \$181,602; approved 7-0-0

Special education trust fund. Requesting \$25,000 be added to this fund; there is currently \$150,000 in it; goal is \$200,000. These would be from available fund balance. If there are no funds available this won't be funded.

Motion by Letty, seconded by Michelle \$25,000; approved 7-0-0

Safety & security fund. Requesting \$5,000 to be added; there is currently \$46,000 with a goal of \$50,000. These would be from available fund balance. If there are no funds available this won't be funded.

Motion by Letty, seconded by Russ to approve \$5,000; approved 7-0-0

The Maintenance fund currently has \$151,000 in it, so they are not asking for any additional funds this year.

Letty wanted all to be aware that the Deliberative session for Co-op is Sunday at 2 pm.

There was a question as to what ARPA funds have been used for. Karen Clement said \$3,000 for custodial; \$57,000 for the additional firefighters and \$14,000 for highway building. They are planning to spend \$35,000 for Health insurance. Karen clarified that when ARPA funds are applied, they are marked for a certain line but shown as a total deduction of the bottom line.

It was stated that the current tax impact, if everything we have voted on thus far passes - not including the co-operative budget/warrants - is nearing \$1000 on a \$425K home.

### **Public Comment**

Liz Faria asked to receive the total amount of warrant articles before Budget Public Hearing.

Liz Faria requested total compensation (salary and benefits) for 2022 and for proposed 2023 for town admin, town clerk/tax collector, full time police (range from 7%, 11%, 14.6%, 24.5%), full time fire, library director, library assistant director.

Motion by Anthony to adjourn; meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

**Upcoming Meetings**

February 5 at 2 pm, Exeter High School - Co-operative deliberative session

(February 7 - petition warrant article submissions due at Town Clerk by 4 pm)

February 9 or 13 (snow) at 5:30 pm, Rec center - Budget Committee meeting (if any additional warrants are submitted)

February 9 or 13 (snow) at 6 pm, Rec center - Budget Committee Public Hearing

March 10 at 6 pm, Swasey School - Swasey School District meeting

March 14, 7 am - 7 pm, Swasey School - Town Elections

March 18 at 9 am, Swasey School - Town Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Siudut, Secretary