

Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office
Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2023

Present: Jack Mitchell (chair), Michelle Siudut (secretary), Lois DeYoung, Letty Bedard (Swasey rep), Andy Artimovich (selectmen rep)

Attending via zoom: Alina Arida, Anthony Phillips

Visitors: Jim Hajjar, Laura Hajjar, Liz Faria, Eric Trump, Russ Kelly, Liz McConnell, Janice Weirs, Bob Radlinksi, Lauri Galvin

Jack called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Motion by Letty, seconded by Lois to allow Anthony Phillips and Alina Arida to attend via Zoom. Letty- aye, Lois- aye, Andy- aye, Michelle- aye, Jack- aye; passed 5-0-0.

Motion by Letty, seconded by Lois to approve the meeting minutes from December 19, 2022, as amended. Letty- aye, Lois- aye, Andy- abstain, Michelle- aye, Jack- aye, Anthony- aye, Alina- aye; passed 6-0-1.

Update from Selectmen

Andy distributed budget YTD for 2022, noting some bills are still outstanding. Selectmen will begin to review warrant articles next week.

Update from School Board

Letty said their next meeting is this coming Monday at 6 pm. Warrant articles will be finalized at that meeting. She welcomed all to attend.

The Co-op released a video presentation of proposed budget for next year. Letty will forward the link to Jack, to distribute to the Committee.

Budgets

Library. The Committee had voted previously to re-open this budget. Library Trustee chair Liz McConnell presented revised salary increases, using data from a different set of towns. The average rate for those positions for the combined towns was then multiplied by 7.5% COLA. The only changes in this revised budget would be the salaries for Director (originally a 36% increase, now 26%) and Assistant Director (originally 50% increase, now 41.4%). The revised budget leaves the Library Assistants and Library Pages wages as they were in the previously passed budget.

Motion by Anthony, second by Andy to approve \$317,992.15 (this is a reduction of \$8,922.73 from previously approved budget; a 20% increase over last year's budget); Letty- aye, Lois- aye, Andy- aye, Michelle- nay, Jack- aye, Anthony- aye, Alina- aye; passed 6-1-0.

Liz Mcconell said the Trustees are discussing warrant articles for amphitheatre and elevator. They are doing a presentation about the amphitheatre at the Library on January 17 (snow date for January 18) at 6 pm. Janice said a ballpark range is \$250K-\$550K. The Committee asked that any warrant articles be presented to the Selectmen at their Jan 24 meeting, to enable this Committee to review them at our Jan 30 meeting.

Public Comment

Becky Dunham asked that meetings be posted more than 24 hours in advance. Andy stated that the current format of their website does not allow for posting of dates without an agenda.

Liz Faria asked why Fremont was taken out of the Library salary calculations and was told it was because their hours and staff were not comparable to ours.

Liz stated the Trustees oversee the Library Budget, not the Town or the people. It is the fault of the Trustees to not maintaining appropriate amounts and the town shouldn't be punished with such a large increase.. Andy stated they need to make it up in a large amount or they will just keep falling behind.

Jim Hajjar asked who determines how ARPA funds are used - Andy said the Selectmen do. Jim asked when they do that - Andy stated the Selectmen decide at Selectmen meetings where those funds will be used, and they have already voted on that.

Motion by Lois, seconded by Letty to adjourn. Letty- aye, Lois- aye, Andy- aye, Michelle- aye, Jack- aye, Anthony- aye, Alina- aye; passed 7-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Upcoming Meetings

January 10 at 6 pm, Exeter High School - SAU Cooperative budget public hearing

January 30 at 6 pm, Town Office - Budget Committee Meeting to review Warrant Articles (February 7 - petition warrant article submissions due at Town Clerk by 4 pm)

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 - Town Elections

March 18 at 9 am, Swasey School - Town Meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Siudut, Secretary