

Town of Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee
Minutes of October 30, 2023 regular meeting, held at Brentwood Town Office

Members: Jack Mitchell (chair), Michelle Siudut (secretary), Alina Arida, Anthony Phillips, Gabbie Kelly, Letty Bedard (Swasey rep), Jon Morgan (Selectboard rep)
Guests: Albert Belanger, Jim Hajjar, Joyce Keegal

Jack called the meeting to order at 6 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Meeting Minutes

Motion by Alina, seconded by Gabbie to approve the October 23 2023 committee meeting minutes as amended; approved as amended 6-0-1.

Selectmen's Report - Jon Morgan

Jon said the Selectboard voted to incorporate the Regional Associations budget into the Welfare budget. The board withdrew from the CPCNH, in order to sign on with Standard Power. Discussion on improvements to the website continue. A community engagement seminar will occur Thursday, November 2 at 6 pm at Rec to present the "charette" prepared by PlanNH. There is a Municipal building committee meeting tomorrow.

Swasey School Board Report - Letty Bedard

The school board will provide a presentation on the solar panel project on November 20. The school board will begin to review next year's Swasey budget at their next meeting. Letty is looking for a list of encumbered funds; she will reach out to Karen.

CIP Update - Anthony Phillips

There is nothing new to report. It is unclear if the Planning Board has approved the CIP.

Budgets to Review

Regional Associations/Welfare. Motion by Letty, seconded by Anthony to re-open the Welfare budget; passed unanimously. The Selectboard voted to include the Regional Association budget within the Welfare budget. The Regional Association amount is \$18,000, a \$500 increase over last year. Motion by Gabbie, seconded by Alina, to approve the Welfare budget of \$25,407; passed unanimously.

Cemetery. This budget is for maintenance at Tonry and 8 other cemeteries. Increase in budget for additional travel; a wage increase based on job performance; a \$650 stipend for the trustee who takes minutes. Joyce clarified the maintenance line is for flags, seeds, and other incidentals. The Trustees would like to have additional roads and walkways paved, which they have submitted for inclusion in the CIP. Letty asked about the space issue - Joyce said we have

3-5 years to come up with land for future expansion. Al Belanger explained how monies in trust could/could not be utilized. Previously, only the interest could be used, however the law was changed to allow access to funds for cemetery upkeep but it is a long process to access the money. Motion by Letty, seconded by Gabbie to approve \$14,368 which is a 5.11% or \$698 increase; approved unanimously.

Information Systems. Primary increases are for hardware and software support, and increased number of email addresses. The website line is reduced as MunicipalOne is being paid out of impact fees. Motion by Gabbie, seconded by Letty to approve \$75,322, which is a 3.94% and \$2,852 increase; approved unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings/Events to Note

Municipal Building committee on October 31 at 1:30 pm at Town Office.

The charette will be presented on November 2 at 6 pm at the Rec. Jon said nothing has been finalized, this is the first presentation to the town.

Wreaths Across America will be Saturday, December 16 at noon.

Old/Other Business

Bylaw changes. We still have not received the opinion of Counsel.

There was another long discussion about how we could better present budget/tax increases, including a combination of per capita/property valuation/inflation; a line graph or other visual. Concern about certain employees heading toward retirement and the impact that could have on future salary/health insurance/retirement costs. Discussion about how to get information out to voters BEFORE public hearing/town meeting. Jack asked the committee to please think about how we can distribute information, for further discussion at our next meeting.

Gabbie/Alina have still been unable to meet with Karen, but will keep trying.

New/Other Business

Jack asked that members be prepared for a group photo at the November 20 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Upcoming Meetings.

Nov 13 2023 at 6 pm: Budget Committee Meeting. Potential budgets to discuss: Debt Service, Recreation, JLMC

Nov 20 2023 at 6 pm: Budget Committee Meeting. Potential budgets to discuss: Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Town Meeting, Election & Registration, Town Admin, Finance

Nov 27 2023 at 6 pm: Budget Committee Meeting. Potential budgets to discuss: Highway,
General Government, Government Buildings

Dec 4 2023 at 6 pm: Budget Committee Meeting. Potential budgets to discuss: Fire, Library

Dec 11 2023 at 6 pm: Budget Committee Meeting. Potential budgets to discuss: Police, Animal
Control, Insurance

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Siudut, Secretary