

Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office

Meeting Minutes January 19, 2022

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

Visitors: Letty Bedard, 198 Middle Rd; Jim Berlo, 38 Scrabble Rd; Ron Kew, Swasey Principal; Chris Andriski, SAU 16; Maureen Cooper, Swasey Food Service; Mollie O’Keefe, SAU 16; Rusty Lyster, SAU16; and Allison Higgins, 31 Eleanor Way.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Lois, seconded by Jack to approve minutes, as amended from the January 12, 2022 meeting. Motion passed 6-0-1.

Update from Selectmen/School Board

Andy (Selectman’s Rep) –Discussion on Brentwood Newsletter funding and Warrant Article.

Melissa (School Board Rep) – School district meeting changed to March 7 at 6 pm in Swasey Gym. Still in negotiations for teacher contracts.

Budget Discussions

Swasey Central School. Presentation by Swasey Principal Ron Kew.

- Swasey Pre-K Program and discussion on projected enrollment. Students are from Brentwood and Kensington. Peers pay \$600/semester or \$1200/year; SPEDs do not pay. Pre-school has one teacher and one aide. They are part of Swasey school budget, Kensington will reimburse. The SAU has a pre-K coordinator.
- Update on Swasey Lunch Program from Maureen Cooper Swasey Food Service Director. 40 different meal options, now offer 15 morning snacks/breakfasts. Serve an average 150 lunches per day, 50 breakfasts - for 350 students. We currently receive \$4.32 per meal from feds due to covid, cost is \$1-\$1.65 per plate. Also receive \$3400 from DOD. A parent who was attending said kids are eating everything on their plate. Parent volunteer support has been great.
- Current budget shows 4.27% reduction due to bond being paid off. Have added funds for paving. The roof was already approved, don’t anticipate any other capital improvements this year. Eventually will need to replace kitchen equipment but there is a CRF for maintenance.

Motion by Melissa, seconded by Andy to approve Swasey School Budget, \$5,919, 914; passed 7-0-0

Warrant articles for Capital Reserve Funds. Motion by Melissa, seconded by Andy to add \$10,000 from unassigned fund balance to Maintenance CRF (\$134,358 current balance, goal TBD); passed 6-1-0

Motion by Melissa, seconded by Andy to add \$10,000 from unassigned fund balance to Special Education CRF (\$133,381 current balance, goal \$250,000); passed 7-0-0

Motion by Melissa, seconded by Andy to add \$10,000 from unassigned fund balance to Safety and Security CRF (\$34,932 current balance, goal \$50,000); passed 7-0-0

Fire Department. Motion by Lois, seconded by Melissa to re-open Fire Department budget. Costs for 2 new positions have been removed; a warrant article will be presented to add those 2 additional positions. Ambulance account has been incorporated into this budget. Motion by Jack, seconded by Andy to approve \$804,994; passed 5-2-0.

Benefits Insurance. Motion by Andy, seconded by Jack to discuss. Anticipate more action from Benefits sub-committee this year. Motion by Lois, seconded by Jack to approve \$332,131; passed 7-0-0

General Government. Motion by Andy, seconded by Jack to re-open. Selectmen increased Brentwood Newsletter line to fully fund the first 3 issues for \$4419 (approximately \$1473 per month). Motion by Andy, seconded by Jack to approve \$33,416 total budget; passed 7-0-0

Insurance. Motion by Andy, seconded by Alina to discuss. Motion by Andy, seconded by Jack to approve \$133,715; passed 7-0-0

Upcoming Meetings

- Budcom meeting - February 2, 2022 at Town Office at 6:00 pm
- Budcom meeting - February 9, 2022 at Brentwood Rec Center at 6:00 pm
- Budcom Public Hearing - February 9, 2022 at Brentwood Rec Center at 7:00 pm
- Swasey school District Meeting - March 7, 2022 at Swasey Gym at 6:00 pm
- Town election - March 8, 2022 at Brentwood Rec Center 7:00 am to 7:00 pm
- Town Meeting - March 12, 2022 at Swasey Gym 9:00 am

Motion by Anthony, seconded by Melissa to adjourn; meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois DeYoung, Secretary