

Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office
Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2020

Present: Michelle Siudut (acting chair), Liz Faria, Melissa Hanlon, Melissa Litchfield, Kris Magnusson, Bob Mantegari

Committee members attending electronically: Keith Levitsky

Visitors: Andy Gray, Val Rodgers, Jessica Duffy

Michelle called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Motion by Kris, seconded by Bob to allow Keith to attend the meeting electronically; motion passed 5-0-0 (Bob, Kris, Liz, Melissa L, Michelle voting in favor).

Motion by Bob, seconded by Kris to discuss minutes of December 23 2019 meeting. Corrections were made. Motion by Bob, seconded by Melissa L to approve the minutes as amended; passed 5-0-2 (Bob, Keith, Liz, Melissa L, Michelle voting in favor; Kris Magnusson and Melissa Hanlon abstaining).

Budgets

Recreation. Motion by Bob, seconded by Melissa L to discuss. Andy distributed a breakout of inc/exp for each item.

Liz asked about percentages of split amounts. It was explained that the town pays 55% of electric and 55% of heat/oil up to a certain amount; the remainder of the costs for those line items are paid from the revolving fund. This has been the same process for many years. The revolving fund pays for programming, seasonal employees.

The loss in Concessions was questioned; they tried this in the summer for the first time and it did not do well; will be reviewed for next year.

Andy said he researched other towns of similar size and their revolving fund amounts are the same or higher than ours.

The Exeter league paid for a lot of field maintenance; EYSA pays for field time.

The commission used impact fees (which were about to expire) to purchase the van.

Kris urged the Rec to make it standard procedure to ask for donations at events that are offered at no cost.

The Rec Commission is looking at options of providing scholarships; Bob suggested establishing a need-base determination.

Biggest lines that were over budget last year were land maintenance, portable toilets & electricity.

Big loss in youth sports - the basketball league they were involved in upped their prices and didn't tell them until end of year when they were billed; the Commission has since changed leagues.

Kris suggested the Rec Committee review the procedure and expenditure process of the Rec Department/revolving fund.

Motion by Bob, seconded by Melissa L to approve \$63,977, which is a 12% decrease, or a 4.3% increase with health insurance. Motion passed 4-2-1 (Bob, Keith, Melissa H, Melissa L voting in favor; Kris and Michelle opposing; Liz abstaining).

Insurance. Motion by Bob, seconded by Liz to discuss. This budget includes property & liability, unemployment, work comp. We participate in a pool through Primex. Rates are claimed based; when claims are made the increases stay on the policy for 5 years. We had big claims in 2014, and in 2015, which will be coming off in the next 2 years.

Kris asked about the large difference between what they are asking for vs what was spent. Karen explained we don't know the rates until they are reviewed in the fall, but we need to budget high. Last year we had a return of \$20K (verify). Motion by Bob, seconded by Kris to approve \$119,322, an increase of 6.9%; motion passed 7-0-0 (Bob, Keith, Kris, Liz, Melissa H, Melissa L, Michelle voting in favor).

Benefits. Motion by Bob, seconded by Kris to discuss. The total in 2019 was \$284,211. Monthly rates are \$987 for single (no deductible), \$1481 for 75% family; we are in a municipal pool.

Michelle questioned why the health insurance has been put in its own budget; she feels it would be more appropriate to show it in each budget. Kris concurred.

Melissa L restated we should look at other options; different plan designs, etc.

Motion by Kris, seconded by Michelle to ask the Selectmen to look into health insurance plan designs; passed 5-0-2 with Melissa H and Bob abstaining.

Bob and Michelle both said they were not in favor of the lieu of insurance line.

Motion by Bob, seconded by Melissa L to approve \$306,474; motion passed 5-2-0 (Bob, Keith, Melissa H, Melissa L, Michelle voting in favor; Kris and Liz against).

Updates from School Board

Melissa L said she has the warrant articles, all out of unreserved fund balance.

Melissa said she cannot attend our Jan 27 as that is the Joint Board Meeting.

Feb 6 - 6 pm School board meeting

Feb 6 - 7 pm Coop deliberative session

Feb 7 snow date for Feb 6 meetings

Other Business

There will be one opening on BudCom, Kris will not be running for re-election.

Citizen petitions are due Feb 4

The state MS27 must be signed by Feb 17

Liz suggested starting a citizens petition for forensic audit of SAU16. It was discussed that we should need a petition, we should just ask the SAU, or the Dept of Revenue.

Motion by Bob, seconded by Michelle to adjourn. Passed 7-0-0 at 8:10 pm.

Upcoming Meetings

Monday, January 20, 2020 at 7 pm - Budget Committee Meeting

Monday, January 27, 2020 at 7 pm - Budget Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 7 pm - Budget Committee Meeting

Monday, February 10, 2020 at 6:30 pm - Budget Committee Meeting

Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7 pm - Budget Committee Public Hearing

Monday, February 11, 2020 - Snow date for Budget Committee Public Hearing

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Siudut, Secretary