

Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee Meeting at Brentwood Town Office
Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2020

Present: Keith Levitsky (Chair), Liz Faria, Melissa Hanlon, Melissa Litchfield, Kris Magnusson, Bob Mantegari, Michelle Siudut

Guest: Bill Dunham

Keith called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to discuss the minutes of the previous meeting. Changes were suggested. Motion by Kris, seconded by Bob to approve the minutes as amended; passed 6-0-1

Warrant Articles

Solar Array. Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to discuss. We keep funding this for the eventual purchase. Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to approve \$17,000 (same amount as last year); passed 7-0-0.

Capital Reserve fund for software. Motion by Bob, seconded by Kris to discuss. The cost to replace is about \$125,000 every five years. There is currently \$88,000 in the fund; asking for \$20K (same as last year). Question was raised about putting everything in the cloud vs server; there are some restrictions on what can go in the cloud. Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to approve \$20,000; passed 4-3-0.

Capital reserve fund for hardware. Motion by Bob, seconded by Kris to discuss. This is a fund to replace servers, computers, etc. There is currently \$22,000 in the fund. Motion by Kris, seconded by Bob to approve \$25,000 (last year it was \$20,000); passed 6-0-1.

Capital reserve fund for Revaluation. Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to discuss. This is a fund saving for the revaluations that are required every five years, which typically costs \$120,000-125,000. There is currently \$125K in the fund. Motion by Bob, seconded by Keith to approve \$25,000 (same as last year); passed 7-0-0.

Motion by Michelle, seconded by Bob to reopen Swasey School Budget for discussion; passed 6-1-0. Michelle proposed reducing the budget by \$14,135. She explained the budget was presented with a 2.78% increase; this percentage was false and the amount she is proposing would bring the budget to that amount. Bob recommended taking the reduction from guidance by not making the position full time and keeping it at .8. Motion by Michelle, seconded by Bob

to decrease Swasey budget by \$14,135 - for a budget amount of \$5,926,166. Melissa L raised concern about where the cuts will be made as well as not having School Board representatives in attendance at this meeting. Members of the Budget Committee expressed disappointment about the SAU budgeting process, the manipulation of numbers presented by the SAU, the increases at the SAU level and the process of when the admin budget is approved vs town budgets. There was much discussion and recalculation. It was shown that the Swasey budget presented had an incorrect figure for the previous year, making the calculation off even further - by \$36,392. Michelle was asked if she wanted to change her motion, she declined.

At this point Keith had to leave. Motion by Bob, seconded by Melissa H to allow Keith to attend the rest of the meeting electronically; approved 7-0-0 with Keith, Liz, Melissa H, Melissa L, Kris, Bob and Michelle all voting in favor. Michelle took the gavel.

Kris moved the question, Bob seconded to vote on the revised Swasey School budget of \$5,926,166. Voting in favor were Michelle, Kris, Liz, Bob; opposing were Melissa L, Melissa H, Keith; passed 4-3-0.

Discussion about the inaccurate presentation of numbers by the SAU office; placing no blame on the Swasey board. Motion by Kris, seconded by Liz to give a vote of no confidence in the SAU16 administration. Voting in favor were Michelle, Kris, Bob, Liz; opposed were Melissa L, Keith; Melissa H abstained. Vote of no confidence passed 4-2-1. It was reiterated that this vote in no way reflects on the Swasey School Board, it is aimed at the SAU only.

An end of year Actuals Report was distributed. Melissa H questioned some of the high balances:

- Road repairs \$95,227.95 - our plans for Rowell Road was rejected by the state multiple times. Because it was a warrant article, they have 3-5 years to hold the money for that purpose.
- Debt service \$77,587.50 - some of the bonds will be expiring
- Public works \$78,001.83 - they've been short staffed
- Snow and ice \$54,951.68 - was a light winter last year, extra salt & sand were ordered at last year's rates, this year has had a lot of ice so we're likely to use more. Keith mentioned Wayne is often willing to give some of that up at town meeting
- Fire \$115,451.70 - staffing was down
- Police \$93,669.21 - staffing and training were down, new employees have lower wages

Discussion around fire department staffing, additional potential warrant requests. Discussion about how we could get other towns to share county expenses (nursing home, courthouse, jail), separate from mutual aid.

Melissa Litchfield presented the Swasey School warrant articles.

Swasey Special Ed expendable trust fund. There is currently \$110,776 in the fund. Motion by Bob, seconded by Liz for \$10K (last year they asked for \$20,000). Voting in favor were Keith, Bob, Michelle, Kris, Liz, Melissa L, Melissa H.

Swasey Maintenance expendable trust fund. There is currently \$101,486 in the fund. The primary concern is cafeteria equipment. Motion by Bob, seconded by Liz to approve \$20,000 (same as last year). Voting in favor were Keith, Bob, Kris, Michelle, Liz, Melissa L, Melissa H.

Safety & Security expendable trust fund. There is currently \$10,000 in the fund. Motion by Bob, seconded by Melissa L to approve \$10,000 (same as last year). Voting in favor were Keith, Bob, Michelle, Melissa H, Melissa L; voting against was Liz.

The Budget Committee will not have a meeting next Monday, January 27th. Our next meeting will be February 4. Please note this is a Tuesday. We will review any remaining budgets and warrant articles.

Motion to adjourn by Kris; voting in favor were Keith, Bob, Melissa H, Kris, Michelle, Liz, Melissa L. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Upcoming Meetings

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Siudut, Secretary