

Approved

**Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee Hearing
Minutes of November 5, 2012**

Present: Elyse Seeley (Chair), Bill Faria, Malcolm Allison, John Lyon, Krista Steger, Ken Christiansen (Selectmen Rep).

Absent: Bob Mantegari, Dianne Vosgien (School Board Representative)

Visitors: Jim Johnson, Jim Berlo, Lisa Swasey, Pat Peterson, Amy Wilson

Chairperson Elyse Seeley called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

1. Correspondence –

- Elyse circulated a draft letter to Fire Association requesting information on the recent sale of the old fire house, since we have not received any response from the Selectmen. The letter will be addressed to Joe Bird (per Ken). Motion to send letter as drafted, Malcolm/John , 6-0.
- Recent Library fundraising letter was passed to everyone, (received by anyone who is a Friend of the Library). The letter details what the Friends have done at the Library this past year.

2. Motion to approve draft minutes from October 22, 2012. /Krista/John. 5-0, 1 Abstention (Malcolm).

3. Elyse discussed upcoming Field Trip, which has been posted. This is informational for our committee to get a sense of what will be involved in renovations, especially at the highway shed. Ken advised that an RFP has been posted for engineering proposals for an analysis of the existing Highway Dept. site.

Town Budgets:

1. Cemetery Budget: Discussion around wages and perpetual fund amounts and how this is an estimate of what activity may occur in the next year. Motion Malcolm/Krista to approve Cemetery Budget in amount of \$7764.00, approved 6-0. Krista to try to get demographic info for the town.
2. Financial, Tax & Assessing Budget: Motion to discuss, Krista/Malcolm, 6-0. Ken advised that there is to be a total review of documents, a large number of abatements. We are in the third year of the five year required total review. Most of the increase is associated with the assessor's salary and actions related to disputes with electric utilities (Fair Point). He has had to deal with a number of lawsuits. The discussion centered around the increase of the utilities. Motion to table pending additional information from Selectmen (Ken). Malcolm/Krista, 6-0.
3. Planning & Zoning Budget, Motion Malcolm/John, to approve Planning & Zoning budget in the amount of \$939.00, approved 6-0.

Other Business

1. One Selectman member asked the cost of reducing everyone in towns tax bill by \$500.00. Elyse provided the calculation, a budget reduction of \$830,500. This is just to give an example and is not anticipated for the coming year.

2. Elyse provided the committee a sense of the ongoing SAU 16 Budget committee work. There is an increase (without new money for supplies or expenses) of 5% due to increased retirement, health care, and raises approved last year, all embedded required increases. The next meeting is on Wednesday, November 14, at 7PM. The committee is trying to be creative with the administration to meet school needs in the most cost effective manner possible.

Public Comments

Mr. Johnson asked if anyone is anticipating budget cuts this year. There is concern that there is not enough money to fund required or mandated initiatives. There is a large concern that federal grants are not the correct method to be used to be funding any initiatives, especially the Plan New Hampshire issue. Everyone in town should be concerned about all the taxpayers in town being controlled at the Federal level or by HUD directives.

Ken advised that a warrant will be presented at the town meeting to address the Plan New Hampshire initiative.

Mr. Berlo asked if Budcom has seen the town audit. Elyse said that we have a copy of the most recent, the 2010 town audit, and we anticipate a current copy of the town audit the end of December.

Elyse reminded us that the next meeting is the field trip.

7:45 Motion to Adjourn, Ken/Malcolm, 6-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
William C Faria