

Approved

**Town of Brentwood  
Budget Committee Hearing  
Minutes of January 7, 2013**

*Present:* Elyse Seeley (Chair), Bill Faria, Malcolm Allison, John Lyon, Bob Mantegari, Dianne Vosgien (School Board Representative -late from School Board mtg)), Ken Christiansen (Selectmen Rep), Krista Steger.

*Visitors:* Crystal Buswell, Mike Morgan, Ron Kew, Lisa Swasey, Sean Hartnett, Linda Garey, Bruce Stevens.

Chairperson Elyse Seeley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Motion to approve draft minutes from December 17, 2012. Malcolm/Bill, Approved 7-0.
2. Correspondence – Elyse reminded the committee that our next meeting is scheduled for January 14, following the public hearing. Also, minutes will be posted as draft if we are not able to approve in coming meetings. Bruce was e-mailed to attend this meeting and explain WA re: Plan NH.

**Old Business:**

1. **Swasey School Budget** – Motion to approve, Ken/Malcolm. Per Dianne, the school board just met and approved a budget in the amount of \$5,176,504.00, a reduction of \$25,000.00 from the draft presented to the Budcom at the December 7 meeting. Unanimously approved, in amount of \$5,176,504.00, 8-0. Dianne stated that school board meeting minutes are available and the discussion of the enhanced playground was begun in March. Elyse pointed out that the school fiscal year is not on the same timeline as the town fiscal year and Budcom meetings are over in March. She has asked Ron and the School Board to email Budcom (or whoever may be in the Chair position) if there are expenditures planned or discussed at the end of their cycle that have not been discussed with Budcom. Asked if, at this time, there are any planned purchases that have not been brought before Budcom now. None per Dianne. Mike Morgan reported there are no plans for any Capital Improvements in the works.
2. **Library Budget 4550-49-110** - Motion to reopen Library Budget, Ken/Dianne. Ken moved to increase Library budget to BOS amount of \$207,922 (a \$5000.00 increase from Budcom approved number) Motion failed, 7-1.
3. **Planning Board 4900-70-841** - Bruce Stevens spoke to the issue, *Plan NH* Community Charrette. Bruce explained to the Budcom that *Plan NH* is separate from and not a part of *Granite State Futures*; which is a federal program. (Bruce believed that the Selectmen signed a letter of authorization and the town may or may not be a part of this federal initiative.) This warrant article is not part of that. It represents an encumbrance of \$5,000.00 to be spent only if Brentwood is selected for the *Plan NH* community charrette, a planning event to assist the town to move forward with its vision for the future. This is the same event that was provided to Exeter in planning the train station and Lincoln Street area of Exeter. It in no way usurps the local planning board's authority. It is a group of volunteer architects, engineers, town people who gather to map out, in our case, the town center designated area approved at town meeting a couple of years ago. It is a volunteer initiative to bring together professionals to provide ideas to meet our vision. Motion to reopen, Krista/Malcolm; approved in the amount of \$5,000.00; 5-3.
4. **Bridge Construction – 70-825** – Formerly tabled due to wording. Motion to open Ken/Bob, to appropriate the WA appropriating \$165,000.00 of the \$1,225,000.00 needed for bridge

replacement for Crawley Falls bridge. This is the amount quoted by the state for the repair work, of which, the town will be reimbursed for all but \$165,000.00 by the state. Money must be encumbered prior to work commencing. \$165,000.00, approved, 5-3.

### **New Business**

#### Warrant Articles

1. **Capital Reserve for Police Department Cruiser – 70-839** - Elyse/John, to appropriate \$20,000.00, to purchase a new vehicle, balance to come from existing money; approved 8-0.
2. **Highway Vehicles - 70-842 and 70-821** - Two WA for highway vehicles with total appropriation of \$50,000.00. WA to lease a CAT backhoe (a 5 year lease/purchase agreement) of 18,524.00. Krista/Ken, approved, 8-0. WA to put \$31,477.00 into Capital Reserve for Highway Vehicles. Krista/Ken, approved, 8-0. Total of \$50,000.00 is the same as last year's total.
3. **Fire Department - 70-822** - to appropriate \$50,000.00 to be added to existing capital reserve for replacement of fire and emergency vehicles. It was noted that the Fire Association was meeting and plans to donate \$90,000.00 for the purchase of a fire vehicle from the money received from the sale of the old fire house. In addition, the Fire Association plans to donate an additional \$40,000.00 to purchase a Cascade oxygen machine. Motion, Bob/Dianne to approve the warrant for \$50,000.00 to existing capital reserve, Failed, 7-1.
4. **CP Fire Association –** Acting on a draft petitioned WA. To appropriate \$90,000.00 to be offset by acceptance of Fire Association donation of \$90,000.00 for purchase of fire vehicle (added to existing capital reserve). Motion, Bob/Ken to accept and add to existing capital reserve, approved 8-0.
5. **CP Fire Association -** Acting on a draft petitioned WA. To appropriate \$40,000.00 to purchase Cascade oxygen equipment to be offset by acceptance of Fire Association donation of \$40,000.00. Discussion centered around recurring costs of this equipment. Currently the fire department uses the machine at the Epping Fire Department at no cost. Motion to table this issue, Bob/Malcolm, pending additional information on costs, approved to table, 7-1.

### **Other Business**

1. Elyse reviewed the total budget picture affecting tax rate.
  - For the town there is now a 55K difference overall between Selectmen and Budcom (library 5K and the Fire Department 50K WA). Our budget represents an increase of .36 cents on 1000 valuation.
  - Swasey School is coming in \$12,079 under last year's, both Boards in final agreement. This represents a reduction of .024 cents on 1000 valuation.
  - The Regional Coop School Budget (ERCSD), pending Deliberative Session, represents increase of .724 cents on 1000 valuation.
  - Added all together, the increase for Brentwood taxpayers without new offset and/or unplanned revenue would be \$1.06 per 1000 valuation if Budcom recommended budget is approved, and \$1.17 per 1000 valuation if Selectmen's recommended budget is approved. **NB:** Last year budgeted was \$1.21 and voted was \$1.18. Actual increase was \$1.01 due to increased revenue (impact fees taken in). (Offset by Selectmen to bring increase down to .23 cents/1000).
5. Public is welcome to attend the ERCSD Deliberative Session on that budget on February 7 at the Exeter High Auditorium.

6. Our next meeting is January 14. (January 17 snow date) following the budget hearing here at Town Offices. Krista will be absent.

7. Elyse and Malcolm's positions on the Budget Committee are up for election. Filing deadline for these two positions is between 1/23 and 2/5, at the town office.

8. Issues remaining are the Brentwood Newsletter article to outline the budget, and a vote on the Fire Department donation warrant. Elyse will prepare the newsletter article and we will revisit the warrant at our next meeting.

**Public Comments**

None

9:10 pm Motion to adjourn, Bob/John, approved 8-0

Minutes respectfully submitted by William C Faria