



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECTBOARD**

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***Minutes
Selectboard
Monday, March 4, 2024***

Selectboard members present: Eddie Arnold, Brendan Denehy, Steve Russo (Via Zoom) Ed Perry, and Brian Rater.

6:00pm Eddie opened the public meeting *and moved, seconded by Brendan, to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) reputation (l) legal; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.*

6:33pm Eddie moved, seconded by Brendan, to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.

Eddie resumed the public meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and read the ground rules for hybrid meetings.

Public Input

Eddie announced the departure of Town Administrator Scott Butcher, effective Friday February 23, 2024. The Board thanked Scott for his service to the Town of Brookline over the past two years. The Town will begin a search for our next Town Administrator during the next few months. In the meantime Selectboard Vice Chair Brendan Denehy has agreed to handle the Town Administrator responsibilities.

Eddie announced the elections beginning next Tuesday, March 12th from 7:00am – 7:30pm at CSDA with all day voting for Town Officials, the Brookline School District Warrant Articles, and officers, as well as Zoning Warrant Articles and the HB Coop elections. Eddie said the Planning Board has provided an informational guide regarding the zoning changes on the town website. Town Meeting will take place at CSDA on Wednesday, March 13th at 7:00pm and we have arranged for a second night if needed on Thursday March 14th at 7:00pm and Friday, March 15th in case of snow. The HB Coop Meeting will be held at the Hollis Brookline High School in Hollis on Tuesday March 19th at 6:30pm.

Approve Minutes

Brian moved, seconded by Ed, to approve the public minutes from the Wed, February 14th, Tues, February 20th, Wed, February 21st, and Sat, February 24th meetings as written; Roll Call Vote Yes 4-0-1, Steve abstained.

Sign Warrants for Payment

Brian moved, seconded by Ed, to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #9 in the amount of \$1,091,840.93, Payroll Warrant #10 in the amount of \$87,675.85 and Police Detail in the amount of \$761.25; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.

*Minutes
Selectboard
Monday, March 4, 2024
Page 2*

Unseal Non-Public Minutes

Defer to next meeting.

Town Hall Radon Issues and Remediation Estimates.

Brendan said he has met with radon contractors and the estimates are in the 10k range and \$30k-\$50k range. The Board discussed adding \$40k to the General Government Buildings Town Hall Budget.

Budget Year-to-Date

Eddie said as of the end of February we were 16.6% of the way through the year and have spent 12.18% of the budget at \$979,552. Total Income as of February 23rd is \$962,063.27.

Town Meeting Planning

Proposed Budget: The Board discussed adjustments to the budget and agreed that proposed amounts can be changed at the Selectboard meeting on Monday March 12th.

Selectboard Election Schedule: The Board discussed their schedule to cover the polls.

Other Items: Bond St Bridge – DRA says voters can increase amounts proposed for the construction phase, on the floor of Town Meeting. Eddie said we are at the end of the design phase and can now apply for 80% reimbursement from the State Bridge Program for this phase which is about \$138k. The Board reviewed the slide presentation planned for the Town Meeting. *Brian moved, seconded by Brendan, to increase the General Government Buildings Town Hall Budget by \$40k and decrease the Fire Department budget by \$70k making the final total for the Town Budget \$8,010,473; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.*

Town Hall Fire Alarm Monitoring

Brendan said Town Hall is not being monitored by Minuteman yet, it is still Hollis Communications because we need two phone lines. JP suggested a cell phone line quoted at \$711.96 for the wiring and cell box. *Brian moved, seconded by Ed, to spend \$711.96 to install a cellular line at Town Hall for fire alarm monitoring; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.*

Pierce Pond Dam Update

Eddie said the postponement date of Dec 1, 2024, for Pierce Pond Dam has been approved by DES. We need to connect with the new contact at the Dam Bureau, and we also need to follow up with the Engineering firm. *Ed to reach out.*

Eddie

Bond St Bridge Update

Eddie said the Bond St Bridge Project is a Local Public Agency Project (LPA) and PW Director Scott Leard has agreed to take the class and become certified. The Board reviewed the sample of the planned paint color for the railings. Brendan said the first Bond St Bridge meeting is Tues, March 19th and the project start date is June 3rd.

*Minutes
Selectboard
Monday, March 4, 2024
Page 3*

Landscaping Contract – Discuss 1 Year Extension

Eddie said this covers the Town Hall, Safety Complex and Library. Wilson has offered to extend the 3 year contract to 4 years at the same price. He said other companies have reached out for bid specs to bid on the contract. The Board will revisit next week.

2022 Audit Review

Defer to next meeting.

ARPA Authorization

Brian moved, seconded by Ed, to authorize Brendan Denehy to disburse ARPA funds for Pierce Pond Dam and potentially any other projects paid for with ARPA funds; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.

Website Update

Brendan said he and Michele will meet with Revise tomorrow to move forward with the Website.

Town Administrator Search

Brendan said do we want to seek both positions at the same time or one after the other. The Board discussed ideas for these positions.

IT Committee Charter

Discuss at a future meeting.

Any Other Old/New Business

Town Logo Clothing

The Board discussed asking employees wearing town logos while speaking at Town Meeting as a resident, to please cover up so as not to appear it is the opinion of the Town. Eddie said at this late date we could respectfully ask the employees to adhere to this for now, and work on making it policy in the future.

Town Hall Elevator

Brendan said the town hall elevator is having trouble with the phone and has prevented it from passing inspection. It is perfectly safe, but the phone does not dial out to dispatch, the elevator company is reaching out to the State to inform them we comply, and they are in the process of fixing the phone.

Town Fire Works

Brendan has reached out and is waiting to hear back from Pyrotechnical.

Board and Committee Updates

There were no updates.

Review Mail Folder

The Board reviewed the mail folder.


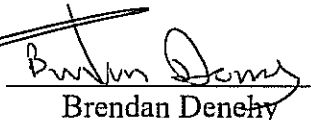
9:05pm *Eddie moved, seconded by Brian, to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) reputation (l) legal; potentially others; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.*

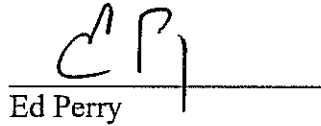
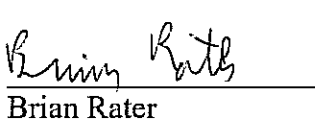
*Minutes
Selectboard
Monday, March 4, 2024
Page 4*

9:52pm *Eddie moved, seconded by Ed, to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.*

9:53pm *Brendan moved, seconded by Ed, to adjourn the meeting; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.*

Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.

 _____ Eddie Arnold	 _____ Brendan Denehy	_____ Steve Russo
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 _____ Ed Perry	 _____ Brian Rater
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