



**TOWN OF  
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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**2020 BudCom Study Committee Minutes  
Thursday, October 29, 2020**

Meeting attendees via Zoom: Drew Kellner, Eric Pauer, Karen Jew, Gaylord Sledge, Matthew Mailloux

Eric opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Eric stated that we were meeting electronically under the Executive Order 2020-04, and the Emergency Meeting Orders #12 and #23 which allow for remote meetings. Eric asked each Board member to verify per the order where they are, why they are there, can they hear everyone, and if anyone is present with them. All members responded.

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Drew made a motion to approve the minutes of October 20, 2020.

Karen seconded. Roll call vote 5-0 to approve.

Drew made a motion to approve the minutes of October 22, 2020 as amended.

Karen seconded. Roll call vote 5-0 to approve.

**Review actions assigned at last meeting**

The meeting was spent reviewing the data to be presented at the joint Selectboard and School board meeting on October 22, 2020.

**Discussion of Presentation on October 22, 2020**

Eric – requested all adjustments to our reports based on the feedback from the joint meeting?

Matt – do we want to do a comparison (especially on the school side) between the total operating budget appropriations in municipal budget committee towns, versus non municipal budget committee towns to compare total funding?

Drew – too much of a variable at this stage in the game.

Eric – when you add other things in there you will get spikes from bonds that will skew the data.

Drew – gave an example of the Brookline land bond that was issued. The warrant article said \$1.2 million, which is how it would show up on the state forms.

Ultimately only \$800,000 was issued and it isn't covered by the operating budget.

Unless you drill down into each one off exception, in each town, in each year, it will distort the general review.

Eric – for archiving purposes we should have a final spreadsheet so that someone can go back and refer to them in the future.

Karen – is the presentation clear that the committee is not giving a recommendation, and that we're recommending that the voters take a vote on this?

Eric – we are putting the report and presentation together as one package. The report states that it is a worthy issue for the voters to decide.

Drew – suggested that we split this into two parts. The deliverable that the charter

calls for is a report. The report should be approved on a stand-alone basis. We have the ability to tweak the presentation as we go forward.

Eric – we will have three files. The full pdf with the supporting data, the report with the prose and the four pdf graphs, and the presentation as a separate files.

Matt – the two excel files would also be added. One for the schools and one for the towns.

Drew – made a motion to approve the report with the graphs, the presentation, and the two excel file for posting to the town website and sent out over emails.

Matt seconded. Roll Call vote 5-0 to approve.

Drew – assumes going forward the Selectboard, School board and Finance committee will be polled to see if they recommend it or not. Although this committee was requested to give a recommendation, he would prefer not to.

Eric – doesn't feel we need to provide an official recommendation. People are still deciding.

Matt – agrees.

Gaylord – also agrees. Feels the recommendations from the three boards would be more beneficial.

Eric – the other thing to think about is how the Selectboard and School board would be giving up authority.

### **Updates to Presentation and/or Report**

None

### **Delivery date of November 2, 2020**

### **Other business**

Eric – what is the schedule for bringing this up as a subject and what would the Selectboard want us to do in assisting?

Drew – at this stage the Selectboard is not going to need much help from us. The warrant article list is a living document that will be touched upon at most meetings over the next two months. There will be a desire to see wording which is typically reviewed by attorney Drescher and DRA.

Eric – do you think the Selectboard will come up with the wording of the warrant article? The first one is standard but warrant article B about the structure, we haven't come up with that. We gave our intent to warrant article B.

Would attorney Drescher word it?

Drew – typically Tad does the initial pass. Often times, if other towns have already done it, and the wording is approved, the easiest thing is to use that wording and modify it for Brookline. Then it would go to Drescher and the DRA.

Eric – if the Selectboard decides to put it on the warrant, we've talked about **also** discussing it at the **Brookline School District** deliberative session if that is of any interest and the moderator would permit it. The deliberative session would be after the Selectboard has decided, but before the town meeting.

Karen - it would be worth a conversation and discussion to as many voters as possible. Definitely in favor of presenting to as many groups of voters as possible.

Drew – if we get a clean run of the PowerPoint presentation we can record a digital copy of it to reply to other audiences. The educational portion can be used and rebroadcast so that people can be directed to watch it. The more people that see it, the more time we can save at the town meeting with questions that can be answered if they watch it.

Drew – recommends making a minor adjustment to the presentation so that it is clear that we are not recommending that a budget committee be approved, but that we are recommending that it be put on a warrant. Then Karen can make the edits and Eric can approve outside of a meeting.

Drew – made a motion to authorize Karen to make minor edits to the PowerPoint presentation and provide that the chair approves of those edits he is authorized to post them as the final draft. Karen seconds. Roll call vote 5-0 to approve.

**Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.