



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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**Brookline Finance Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 16, 2022**

1 Committee Attendance: Brian Rater (BR), Cindy LaCroix (CL), Tracy Perry (TP)

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3 **Meeting called to order: 7:33 pm**

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5 Brian Rater (BR) – Welcomed finance committee members to the August meeting of the
6 Brookline Finance Committee which was held in person.

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8 **Public Input** – no public present.

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10 **Meeting Minutes for Approval**

11 TP presented May 17, 2022, and July 19, 2022, minutes for approval. The June 2022 meeting
12 was canceled. In the May minutes, line 17, was edited to read “to cure the defect or
13 invalidate...” CL motioned to approve the May minutes as amended and the July minutes as
14 submitted; BR seconded. BR entered the voting mode by show of hands. The motion carried 3-0-
15 0.

16
17 **3. Agenda adjustments – ARPA Funds**

18 Brookline received approximately \$570,000 in ARPA funds. The federal restrictions on how
19 these funds are allowed to be spent are less restrictive than previous guidelines. The selectboard
20 sent an email to the town department heads and committees to inform them of the funds and to
21 ask for suggested projects. When the selectboard meets on September 6th to discuss the
22 allocation of the funds, FinComm should be present and part of the discussion. \$100,000 of
23 ARPA funds have already been allocated to the communication system for the Fire Department
24 due to an immediate cost increase in an approved purchase. BR suggested projects within the
25 Capital Improvement Plan be reviewed first to reduce the tax impact on residents. TP suggested
26 the Energy Committee may suggest to the selectboard using funds to pay for the energy systems
27 upgrades town hall.

28
29 **4. Selectboard Stipends**

30 CL submitted her comparative analysis of selectboard stipends across peer New Hampshire
31 towns. The initial findings are that stipends for the Chair, Selectmen, and the Health Officer are

below the median stipends of other towns. The Welfare Officer is above the median and the Treasure is just slightly below the median. BR and TP recused themselves from making formal recommendations due to a potential and/or perceived conflict of interest. CL will email Scott Butcher, Town Administrator, her recommendations and ask for time at the next selectboard meeting to present the information.

5. Updates from Other Committees

BR said the SAU budget committee is most likely going to start meeting soon.

TP has not been contacted about Capital Improvements Committee. Brendan Denehy, the Energy Committee's selectboard representative, presented the committee's memo to the selectboard on August 9, 2022. The board asked the committee to move forward on outlining a phased approach to install a propane furnace in Town Hall in 2022 and schedule other parts of the project for 2023 and beyond.

CL reported that the DPW committee is finished, and the Open House event was a success. The touch-a-truck event is coming up soon at the new building.

BR said the budget season is coming up. For the town of Brookline budget, there are 3 meetings, the first week in Oct and a final meeting in January with a meeting in between. For the Brookline School District, FinComm meets once with the school budget committee in November/December during round 3.

6. Set date of next meeting – BR proposed the next meeting for September 20, 2022, at 7:30 pm.

Other Business - none

BR asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. TP moved to adjourn; CL seconded.

BR entered the voting mode by show of hands. The motion carried 3-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.