



**TOWN OF  
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SELECTBOARD**

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<http://www.brooklinen nh.us>

***Minutes  
Selectboard***

***Wednesday, January 17, 2024***

Selectboard members present: Eddie Arnold, Brendan Denehy, Steve Russo, Ed Perry, and Brian Rater, along with Town Administrator Scott Butcher. Finance Committee Members present: Cindy Lacroix, Graham Loff, and Daniel Koenig. Others present: Eric Pauer, Michele Decoteau, Lynn Giblin, Judy Cook, Bill Quigley, Rich Vertullo.

***6:30pm 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.  
6:59pm Eddie moved, seconded by Brian, to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.***

7:02 Eddie opened the 2024 Budget Hearing. Cindy opened the FinCom meeting. Brendan explained the budgeting process that began in October and November 2023 with discussions between the Selectboard and Department Heads. Round 2 continues tonight and tomorrow night for discussion with the public. The departments present their budget, and the public has a chance to ask questions, followed by the two Boards asking questions and suggesting adjustments. The final round is on the floor of the town meeting in March where final discussion, voting and changes take place. Brendan said it is important to note that this year's budget has a large increase, primarily due to legal, so both Boards need to discuss ways to flatten that increase.

**Planning & Zoning Account 4191.0** Michele Decoteau Proposed \$113,673. Michele noted that the budget includes expenses that will be covered by the Housing Opportunities Grant we received of \$15,513. The Planning Board has increased outdated fees across the board. Total estimated income is \$35,877.

**Economic Development Account 4850.0** Michele Decoteau Proposed \$3,325. Mailings \$2000, plus a Bench \$800, and a Doggie Waste Disposal Station \$525 contributing to the desire for a "Village District", or "Walkable Downtown" as stated in the Master Plan.

**Conservation Commission Account 4610.0** Brendan Denehy Proposed \$44,500 Flat The Milfoil line item is \$30k with the agreement that any unspent funds return back to the town. Last year the total spent on Milfoil treatment and removal was \$10,560 with \$2k reimbursed from the State of NH. Eddie said in the last five years the average spent on Milfoil was less than 20K. Brendan said CC fundraising supports conservation land maintenance. Eric Pauer suggested lowering the Milfoil line item to 10k-15k.

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**Fire Department Account 4220.0** Dave Joki Proposed \$678,973

Adjusted line items: Added EMT Training, added Salaries Full-Time and Clerical due to increased staffing through town meeting, added Equipment for new Rescue Truck, decreased Gas and Diesel by \$989. 2023 Income was \$11,220.

Warrant Article #11 FD Admin Assist Pos Expand to full-time \$31,244. Card Vote.

Warrant Article #20 Funds for deposit to Fire Truck Cap Res Fund \$50k. Card Vote.

**Police Department Account 4210.0** Bill Quigley Proposed \$1,101,878.

2023 Income was \$3,770.

**Communications Account 4211.0** Eddie Arnold Proposed \$221,499

Increase due to Hollis Communications Staffing increases.

**Recreation Commission Account 4520.0** Rich Vertullo Proposed \$47,080

2023 Income was \$10,996.

**Election & Registration Account 4140.0** Lynn Giblin Proposed \$24,801.

Increase due to four elections scheduled for 2024 versus one in 2023. Lynn asked to increase this by \$100 for two additional Ballot Clerks to serve at the Primary Election. Brendan explained that the amount of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds originally allocated to the Conservation Commission for Trailhead cameras was far more than the cameras ended up costing and asked the Selectboard to reduce the amount of ARPA funds to \$5k. *Steve moved, seconded by Brian, to reduce the ARPA funds allocated to the Conservation Commission from \$18k to 5k; Voted Yes 5-0. Ed moved, seconded by Steve, to use ARPA funds in the amount of \$12k for the purchase of two voting machines; Voted Yes 5-0. New Proposed Budget \$12,901.*

**Health Agencies Account 4415.0** *Steve moved to level fund accounts 4415.21, 4415.5, 4415.51, 4415.53, and 4415.57, and 4415.59; Voted Yes 3-2, Brian and Eddie voted no. New Proposed Budget \$29,100.*

**Patriotic Purposes Account 4583.1** Eddie Arnold Proposed \$11,700.

*Brian moved, seconded by Brendan, to reduce Flags and Wreaths from \$1,200 to \$500; Voted Yes 5-0. New Proposed Budget \$11,000.*

9:05pm Eddie recessed the Budget Hearing until Thursday Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, FinCom adjourned.

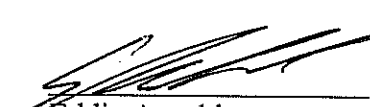
9:09pm *Eddie moved, seconded by Ed, to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) (reputation) and (l) (legal); potentially others; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.*

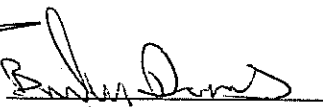
9:27pm *Eddie moved, seconded by Brendan, to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes; Roll Call Vote 5-0.*

9:27pm *Ed moved, seconded by Brendan, to adjourn the meeting; Voted Yes 5-0.*

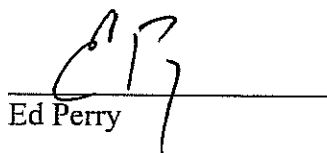
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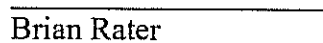
Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.

  
Eddie Arnold

  
Brendan Denehy

  
Steve Russo

  
Ed Perry

  
Brian Rater