



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECTBOARD**

**P.O. BOX 360 – 1 Main Street
BROOKLINE, NH 03033-0360**

Telephone (603) 673-8855, ext. 213
Fax (603) 673-8136

Selectboard@brooklinenlh.us

<http://www.brooklinenlh.us>

***Minutes
Selectboard
Monday, January 29, 2024***

Selectboard members present: Eddie Arnold, Brendan Denehy, Ed Perry, and Brian Rater, along with Town Administrator Scott Butcher. Fire Wards Present: David Joki, David Santuccio, and Mark Fessenden.

6:00pm Eddie opened the meeting and read a statement from the Selectboard.

As we all know, the Town is currently conducting an investigation of a personnel matter alleged to have occurred in the Fire Station. As elected officials of the Town, the members of both the Fire Wards and the Selectboard are responsible for ensuring that this investigation be carried out promptly, professionally, and with respect and consideration for all parties involved. In order to do so, both Boards agreed to hire a trained outside investigator to do interviews, determine whether the allegations are true, and to provide an impartial report and recommendations. This investigation is ongoing.

As the members of both Boards know, our responsibility as elected officials is to make sure this process goes smoothly, to ensure that the details of the alleged complaint remain confidential, and to make decisions based on the facts we receive in the report. This process can be difficult, especially when the parties involved are friends or coworkers; however we all took an oath to fulfill the duties of our position.

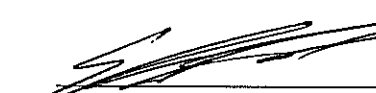
We are meeting tonight because our attorney has informed us that she has received credible reports that one of the Fire Wards has been making public statements within the Fire Station, and these reports have been confirmed. These statements are placing the investigation at risk and present the possibility of further legal action not only against the Town, but against the members of both Boards unless we take action. That is why this meeting has been called. By law this has to be a public meeting; however, I remind all involved that the investigation is ongoing, and all details must remain confidential.


Brendan said it has been reported that others have heard Dave Santuccio talking with Dave Joki at the Fire Station about the investigation and have made a complaint. Dave Santuccio responded that these comments did not come from him. Eddie said attorneys have provided direction that Dave Santuccio refrain from being in the Fire Station while the investigation is going on. Dave said he will comply with this direction but would like to know who his accusers are and wants to set up a non-public meeting at a later date.

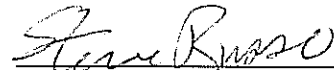
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6:05pm Eddie closed the meeting.

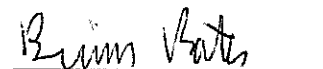
Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.


Eddie Arnold


Brendan Denehy


Steve Russo


Ed Perry


Brian Rater