



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECTBOARD**

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*Minutes
Selectboard
Monday, October 25, 2021*

Selectboard members present: Drew Kellner, Brendan Denehy, and Steve Russo along with Town Administrator Tad Putney; Dana Ketchen participated remotely due to social distancing and Eddie Arnold participated remotely due to travel considerations. Also present: Finance Committee member Brian Rater.

6:00pm Drew opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and reviewed the rules for hybrid meetings.

Review Dept. of Revenue Admin. (DRA) Information for Setting the Tax Rate

Tad said at March's town meeting, one of the last slides of the presentation showed, if all town and school warrant articles were approved, the projected tax increase would be about 11%. He noted, however, a significant amount of funds from both school districts were not spent during their fiscal year ending in June, and were returned to taxpayers. **Tad** also said the amount of Meals and Rooms Tax revenue actually received by the town was \$398,000, which was more than the \$271,000 that was expected. **Tad** said DRA has calculated we have 2.99% of total annual expenditures in the unassigned fund balance and DRA recommends a minimum of 5%. He said if the Selectboard opts not to use any of the unassigned fund balance to offset the tax rate, the 2021 rate would be \$28.58, a 2.8% increase over last year. He said the *town* portion of the tax rate decreases by 9.4%. **Tad** said in the last three years the Selectboard has opted not to use any of the unassigned fund balance to offset the tax rate. **Eddie** asked why the unassigned fund balance today is lower than it was at the end of 2020. **Tad** said there were three warrant articles approved at town meeting in March 2021 that moved monies from the unassigned fund balance: about \$23,000 that was moved into the Cable Access Fund, about \$145,000 (the 2020 Highway Block Grant) that was moved into the Public Works Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, and about \$3,600 in 2020 ambulance donations that was moved into the Ambulance Expendable Trust Fund. **Tad** added the \$75,000 that was recently approved from the unassigned fund balance to cover unanticipated legal costs also reduced the unassigned fund balance. **Dana moved to apply \$75,000 from the unassigned fund balance to reduce the 2021 tax rate, there was no second. Brendan moved, seconded by Eddie, to take no money from the unassigned fund balance for tax relief; Roll Call Vote Yes 4-1, Dana Voted No.** **Tad** said this is preliminary and he will be submitting it to DRA in the morning for their approval and then tax bills will be mailed out by the end of the week. **Brendan moved, seconded by Steve, to adjourn the meeting; Voted Yes 5-0.**

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6:13pm meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.

Drew Kellner

Eddie Arnold

Brendan Denehy

Dana Ketchen

Steve Russo