



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECTBOARD**

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*Minutes
Selectboard
Tuesday, November 1, 2022*

Selectboard members present: Eddie Arnold, Brendan Denehy, Dana Ketchen, Steve Russo, and Ed Perry along with Town Administrator Scott Butcher. Also present: Brian Rater, (Tracey Perry via Zoom), Cindy Lacroix, Bill Quigley, Jay Chrystal, Dave Ketchen, Charlie Corey, Dave Joki, Peter Cook and Mark Gaff.

6:30pm Eddie opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and read the ground rules for hybrid meetings.

Public Input

Selectboard member **Dana Ketchen** read the following prepared statement: "I would like to start by saying that the Selectboard is the only budgetary oversight between town departments, (excluding the fire department and library), and the tax bill. Voters can certainly have a say at the annual town meeting, but the day-to-day things that come up must be addressed by this body. I believe that some tension between town departments and this body is not only acceptable but rather necessary to the budgeting process, and sometimes the subsequent spending processes involved. It is our job to provide all that is necessary to the town and departments. It is also our job to make the difficult decisions about wants versus needs in spending. Don't get me wrong, it is up to each department to request all the necessary spending plus the nice-to-haves. I believe that is how it should work. Sometimes, not all that is requested ought to be spent in the budget, especially with the town in the middle of a federal lawsuit that will cost no less than \$780k in legal fees. It appears to me that the budgeting process and the tension that goes along with that is not allowed by this current Board. I ask a lot of questions and I sometimes push back. That has somehow created tension that should never, ever, be personal. Sadly for me, I have been personally attacked by a department head and by the Chairman of this Board. You can all disagree with me, and you can all vote in opposition of me, but what you can not do is call me a liar without any context or any facts or evidence. This is exactly what happened in a non-public session on October 17th, the Chairman of this Board screamed and yelled at me while I sat in that chair, that's why I'm not sitting in the corner chair anymore and called me a liar and then immediately moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by the other members. That abruptly ended the conversation. On occasions prior to this I have tried to communicate with the current Chair without response, I have let that go. I have again tried to communicate with the Chair because it is imperative that we work together. I have tried twice since October 17th to reach out to the Chairperson without any response. The

*Minutes
Selectboard
Tuesday, November 1, 2022
Page 2*

totally baseless claim of calling me a liar, raising his voice toward me in anger, not being able to control his temper, ignoring my requests for communication, and in my opinion, other job performance issues around preparedness for meetings and reading materials before the meetings, I believe **Ed Arnold** is disqualified to be the Chairperson of this body.” *Dana moved to have Ed Arnold removed as Chair; there was no second, the motion failed.* **Eddie** said he is sorry **Dana** feels that way. **Dave Ketchen** of Russell Hill Road said his wife came home the other night and woke him up to tell him about **Eddie** yelling and screaming at her and calling her a liar. He said if she was a man **Eddie** would have never done that. **Eddie** said yes he would have, he is not a sexist person, and he doesn’t appreciate that. **Dave** said you can have him arrested or not, but twenty years ago **Eddie** would be getting out of the hospital, and he (**Dave**) would be getting out of jail. **Eddie** recommended that **Dave** sit down. **Ed** told **Dave** he has embarrassed himself enough and asked **Chief Quigley** to listen to what **Dave** is saying, there is a line and then there is a line. **Eddie** said it’s ok. **Ed** said there is a level of decorum and we have now wasted 6 minutes of the peoples time. **Dave** and **Dana** said it is not a waste of time. *Ed moved, seconded by Steve, to call a vote of confidence in Eddie Arnold as the Chair; Voted Yes 3-1-1, Dana voted no, and Eddie abstained.* **Eddie** read a memorandum from **Ambulance Chief Stewart** who announced that long-time resident and Call Fire Fighter for the Fire Department for the past 19 years, **Phil Soletsky**, is a newly certified emergency medical technician (EMT) and has officially joined the BAS. Anyone interested in joining the BAS please contact **Chief Stewart**. **Ed** thanked our Welfare Director **Angie** for inviting him to the volunteer appreciation potluck that was very well attended by many of our wonderful volunteers. He congratulated the library on a very successful Trunk or Treat on Saturday, along with the Recreation Commission for a great October Eve with hayrides, haunted woods, and prizes. He said there were families up and down the street enjoying both events.

Sign Warrants for Payment

Brendan moved, seconded by Steve, to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #43 in the amount of \$570,199.16, Payroll Warrant #44 in the amount of \$68,679.10, and Police Detail in the amount of \$210. **Eddie** said in the last payroll #42 a paycheck was missed in the direct deposit transaction, resulting in a manual payroll check being written in its place, and revising the total payroll report to \$72,222.54.

Approve Minutes

Brendan moved, seconded by Dana, to approve the public minutes from the Monday, October 17th and 24th meetings as written; Voted Yes 5-0. Brendan moved, seconded by Steve, to approve non-public minutes sets 1,3,4,5 & 6 from the Monday October 17th and sets 1,2,4,5,6,7,8 & 9 from the Monday, October 3rd meetings as written; Voted Yes 5-0.

Jay Chrystal re: Line of Site Maintenance Easement on Lot H-43

Jay said originally, the project before the Planning Board was going to have public access, accessing Main Street, and going to the top of the driveway. He said we have subsequently approached the ZBA for a variance for a common driveway to move liability for maintenance from the town to the owner of the condominium complex and their association. **Jay** said because of that we have proposed a line of site easement. He

*Minutes
Selectboard
Tuesday, November 1, 2022
Page 3*

said we have donated 2.305 acres to the town making H-43 (currently ¼ acre) 2.55 acres. **Jay** said we would like to have permission from the town to maintain the little triangle of town land to cut any brush for full line of site from Monius Way to the junction of Old Milford Road and Main Street. He said this will be recorded on the plan of the lot line relocation and the conveyance of the land to the town with the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds. ***Brendan moved, seconded by Steve, for the Town of Brookline to allow Village Brook LLC a line of site maintenance easement on Lot H-43; Voted Yes 5-0.***

Board and Committee Updates

Melendy Pond Management Committee (MPMC) **Eddie** said the MPMC is looking for direction from the Selectboard to have a local forestry firm give an estimate for forestry management. He said there is some high valued timber there which will only gain in value if managed properly. The Board agreed for the MPMC to move forward with forestry management in the best interest of the forest.

Review and approve Pierce Pond Dam Grant Documents

Scott said NHDES has approved the full 77k for the Pierce Pond Dam grant. ***Dana moved, seconded by Ed, to authorize Scott to sign the final documents; Voted Yes 5-0.***

TAP 2 Project

Eddie signed all the TAP 2 documents.

2023 Health Trust Health and Dental Plans

Ed moved, seconded by Brendan, to accept the Health Trust Plans with the 11% increase; Voted Yes 5-0. **Dana** said next year we need to look at detail more thoroughly.

7:03pm Preliminary 2023 Budget Reviews

7:04 Chair **Brian Rater** called the Finance Committee to order with members present: **Cindy Lacroix** and (**Tracey Perry** Via Zoom).

Conservation Commission – Jay Chrystal Proposed 2023	\$ 44,500
Police Department – Bill Quigley Proposed 2023	\$1,063,366
Pest Control – Bill Quigley Proposed 2023	\$ 200
Fire Department – Charlie Corey Proposed 2023	\$ 480,432
Library - Cindy Lacroix Proposed 2023	\$ 369,707
Revaluation Property – Peter Cook Proposed 2023	\$ 38,374

8:36pm Finance Committee Adjourned

Discuss Litigation and Reduction in 2022 Spending

Scott said he spoke with the Department Heads and asked them where they can conserve in anticipation of the town's litigation costs. He said they feel they don't really have any room to save any further. **Eddie** said determine what the shortfall might be and have that number for our next meeting and set a date for a public hearing to tap into emergency funds. **Brendan** moved seconded by **Steve** to hold the public hearing on Nov 14th or Nov 21st depending on posting period requirements; Voted Yes 5-0.

*Minutes
Selectboard
Tuesday, November 1, 2022
Page 4*

The Board will set a meeting for later in the week for tax rate setting based on results from DRA. **Brendan** said if there is leftover money in the Milfoil Budget line item the Conservation Commission has the authority to direct it towards the legal budget.

Election Schedule

The Board discussed the election schedule.

Review items for next Meeting's Agenda

Public hearings

Balance of Budgets

Code of Conduct for Town Employees and Public Meetings

Mail Folder

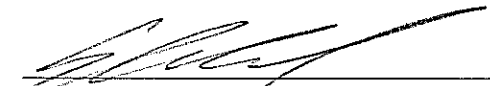
The Board reviewed the mail folder

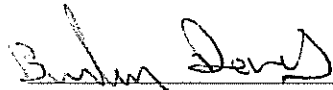
9:13pm Eddie moved, seconded by Brendan, to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) reputation and (l) legal and potentially others; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.

10:05pm Eddie moved, seconded by Steve, to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.


10.06pm meeting adjourned.

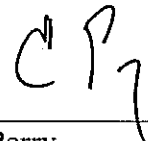
Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.


Eddie Arnold


Brendan Denchy


Dana Ketchen


Steve Russo


Ed Perry