



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECTBOARD**

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*Minutes
Selectboard
Monday, March 27, 2023*

Selectboard members present: Eddie Arnold, Brendan Denehy, Dana Ketchen, Steve Russo, and Ed Perry, along with Town Administrator Scott Butcher. Also present: Brian Rater and Peter Webb.

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

Public Input and Announcements

Eddie said Town Election polls open tomorrow at CSDA from 7am - 7:30pm. **Eddie** read a letter from **Ambulance Chief Jeffrey Stewart** announcing the retirement of paramedic **James Deffely** from the BAS and thanking him for 31 years of dedicated service.

Approve Minutes

Brendan moved, seconded by Steve, to approve the public minutes from the Monday, March 20th meeting as written; There was no vote. **Dana** requested that comments she made in the meeting be added to these minutes. **Dana moved, seconded by Steve, to amend the minutes from the Monday, March 20th meeting to include the discussion not to add any warrant article adjustments beyond the original town meeting date; Voted Yes 5-0.** **Eddie** said the Board will approve the amended minutes at the next meeting. **Brendan moved, seconded by Dana, to approve sets 1-4 and 6 & 7 of the non-public minutes from the Monday, March 20th meeting as written; Voted Yes 5-0.** Reserve set 5 for further discussion.

Finalize Town Meeting Preparation

Brendan suggested making a general statement for housekeeping warrant articles 12-16 first, then conduct the vote one by one allowing for questions. **Peter** said warrant article 6 will not be taken up by ballot unless officially requested by 5 voters. **Brian** said every year we do a warrant article for "Legacies and Successions" to accept money that is paid for the "Right to Inter" purchases which goes to the cemetery trust fund. He said it was left off this year so we will take it up under "Other Business" so that it is recorded in the minutes and the town report. **Peter** said if voters did not have notice of this, any decision on the subject matter at the meeting is non-binding but we can go through the motions to accept as a formality. **Peter** said if we ask the voters at town meeting to agree to this and they do, then we can go ahead and accept it. **Brendan** confirmed that **Tad Putney** will be "Protem" for tomorrow night.

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Discuss Budget Adjustments for Fuel; Snow & Ice Management

Eddie said, **Public Works Director Mike Wenrich** said he is comfortable where the budget is right now and does not feel any adjustments are needed. ***Eddie moved, seconded by Brendan, to ask department heads to recalculate their fuel budgets at \$3.25/gal and diesel at \$4.78/gal; Voted Yes 5-0.*** **Eddie** said request new totals by Wednesday at noon and adjust warrant total for town meeting Wednesday night. **Eddie** suggested asking departments not to limit services but tighten their budget for a year given the current legal budget. **Ed** said when we put off purchases to save money, the price of things goes up and we pay more down the road and have to buy it anyway. **Brendan** said keep the legal budget where it is and ask the departments to be careful with spending. He said if we show fiscal restraint and planning, it gives us the option to go to the state for access to the unreserved fund balance or ask for a special town meeting. **Dana** said after the throws of COVID, we came out in good shape, the budget was stable, and the town was well managed. She said it was impressive to her how well we came out of that, we now have experience behind us and agrees with **Brendan**.

Review 2023 Year-to-Date Spending

Eddie said we are 25% of the way through the year and have spent 23% of the budget so we are on the right side of that line. He said the total net income from January 1st to March 24th is \$831,798.97 and he feels comfortable with that. **Brendan** agreed.

Board/Committee Updates There were no updates.

Any Other Old/New Business

Scott said “.GOV” domains are available free of charge and since we are municipal government we should change over. He said we currently pay for domains, and we are switching to a new website this year so the emails and website could coincide. **Peter Webb** said while he understands why the town would switch over for no cost, the last time they did this it was very chaotic to the public. **Brendan** said the last time we had no choice because the domain ended. **Eddie** said also it was a small change of one dot. This time it is an obvious change to .GOV. **Eddie** said we can secure it now but change it later. ***Brendan moved, seconded by Ed, for Eddie to sign the letter securing the agreement to change the Town of Brookline’s domain to .GOV; Voted Yes 5-0.***

Sign Conservation Commission Purchase & Sales Agreement A-2 & B-72

Brendan moved, seconded by Ed, to table this discussion until next week. **Scott** said it can’t wait. ***Brendan rescinded his motion to table. Brendan moved, seconded by Ed, for the Town of Brookline to sign the P & S agreement with George Denault for 50% ownership of Tax Map A Lot 2 and Tax Map B Lot 72; Voted Yes 5-0.***

Memorandum of Understanding with Nashua Div of Public Health & Com Serv

Eddie said the MOU is a commitment by the Town of Brookline, as part of the Greater Nashua Public Health Region to commit support during a state of emergency in the region. He said the commitment is dependent upon the availability of designated resources at the time of the request. ***Brendan moved, seconded by Steve, to authorize the Chair to sign the MOU between the City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services and the Town of Brookline; Voted Yes 5-0.***

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Cindy Lacroix asked if the amended warrant articles could be printed and passed out to voters at town meeting. **Scott** said Charlie told him the Fire Department received two bids for the Fire Truck but did not share the amounts.

Review Items for Next Meeting's Agenda

Officer Elections Appointments to Committees

Board Objectives

Re-evaluate Committee Charters

Chief Corey

Review Mail Folder There was no mail.

7:38pm **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.

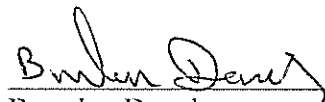
7:58pm **Eddie** moved, seconded by **Brendan**, to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes; Voted Yes 5-0.

Brendan moved, seconded by **Dana**, to approve set 5 of the non-public minutes from the Monday, March 20th meeting as amended; Voted Yes 5-0.

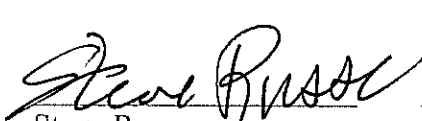
8:01pm **Dana** moved, seconded by **Ed**, to adjourn the meeting; Voted Yes 5-0.

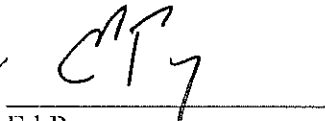
Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.


Eddie Arnold


Brendan Denchy

Dana Ketchen


Steve Russo


Ed Perry