



**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@brooklinenh.us](mailto:Selectboard@brooklinenh.us)

<http://www.brooklinenh.us>

*Minutes  
Selectboard  
Monday, April 3, 2023*

Selectboard members present: Eddie Arnold, Brendan Denehy, Steve Russo, Ed Perry, and Brian Rater, along with Town Administrator Scott Butcher. Also present: Charlie Corey, Jeffrey Stewart,

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

**Public Input and Announcements**

There was no public input.

**Approve Minutes**

*Brendan moved, seconded by Steve, to approve the public minutes from the Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting as written; Voted Yes 4-0-1, Brian abstained. Brendan moved, seconded by Steve, to approve the public minutes from the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting as written; Voted Yes 4-0-1, Brian abstained. Ed moved, seconded by Steve, to approve 4 sets of non-public minutes from the Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting as written; Voted Yes 4-0-1, Brian abstained.*

**Approve Warrants**

*Ed moved, seconded by Steve, to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #13 in the amount of \$2,098,495.59, Payroll Warrant #14 in the amount of \$75,131.78, and Police Detail in the amount of \$210; Voted Yes 5-0.*

**Elect Selectboard Chair and Vice Chair**

*Brendan nominated Eddie Arnold as Selectboard Chair, Ed seconded, Eddie accepted; Voted Yes 5-0. Eddie nominated Brendan Denehy as Selectboard Vice Chair, Ed seconded, Brendan accepted; Voted Yes 5-0.*

**Reorganize Board and Committee Assignments**

Souhegan Regional Landfill District (SRLD) – **Eddie** said his term is up in March of 2024, but he has a scheduling conflict for the next few months and will not be able to attend meetings. He suggested that he resign, and the Board appoint **Ed Perry** in his place and when his schedule frees up, he can step back up. **Eddie** resigned from the SRLD effective immediately. *Brian moved, seconded by Ed, to accept Eddie's resignation; Voted Yes 5-0. Brendan nominated Ed Perry to fill the open seat on the SRLD, Brian seconded; Voted Yes 5-0.*

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Planning Board – Steve Russo Primary, Ed Perry Alternate  
Conservation Commission – Brendan Denchy Primary, Brian Rater Alternate  
Melendy Pond Management Committee (MPMC) – Eddie Arnold  
Energy Committee – Brendan Denchy  
Capital Improvements Committee – Ed Perry  
Collective Bargaining Negotiations – (Police Union) - Eddie Arnold & Brian Rater  
Economic Development Committee – (EDC) Steve Russo  
Visioning Committee – Brendan Denchy -  
History Committee – ***Brendan moved, seconded by Steve, to dissolve the Town History Committee; Voted Yes 5-0.***  
Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) – The Board gave notice to appoint Steve Russo to the NRPC at the next meeting.  
***Steve moved, seconded by Brendan, to allow the Chair to appoint Selectboard member representatives to vacancies as needed; Voted Yes 5-0.***  
Finance Committee – **Brian** said he is looking for a replacement for his seat.  
Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) – The Board gave notice to reappoint Archer Batcheller as Full Member and Charlotte Pogue as Alternate Member on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Fire Chief**

**Charlie** said he came tonight to try and mend the fence between the Fire Department and Selectboard, and then read the following statement: Miscommunication on both sides has led to this tension and both sides are to blame equally. On 11/30/2022 he sent an email from the HGAC bid to **Scott** and said to let the BFD know. On 1/30/2023 he received back that it needs to go out to bid, that is a long time to wait. Almost everybody on the BFD pays property taxes and wants to make our tax money go as far as it can. We also want updated equipment with today's safety standards. The BFD does many things for the better of the town and it costs a lot of money to be 24/7 emergency ready. We know we can't buy everything in one year but, when our items are not purchased as planned, it costs the town more the following year. We have 37 employees, 11 emergency vehicles, and 2 staff vehicles. This is the biggest town department with the 4<sup>th</sup> largest budget. Last year our calls increased by 29% and our budget went down by 10.7%, we are doing more with less. Last year we billed for the recovery of \$5,587.58 for the August brush fire and \$1,366.66 for the Hazmat that was given back to the town. This year's budget is down 12.9% and calls are up 167% over last year at the same time and its only April. We put our radios in, starting the process in 2016 to lay the groundwork for what the Police, EMS and BPW are doing now. The radio work for these departments does not benefit the BFD, we have our own 2 frequencies and are 97% covered in town. We received 2 AED's out of the ARPA funds at a cost of \$1,876.50 and 0 from the GOFERR Funds. We were told by the Town Administrator in May 2022 that all department heads would receive \$100k from ARPA funds for purchases in our departments, and ours was for a new fire truck. As the only department in town receiving a small amount of ARPA funds, you can understand our disappointment. If we were granted 100k from ARPA funds toward the new fire truck, it would have saved the taxpayers 100k and an additional 20k had we known before town meeting. It is the Selectboard that is putting solar panels on the fire station using ARPA funds, not the Fire Department. The BFD has concerns about the solar panels regarding snow, and who will benefit from the savings on the electric bill.

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The BFD would like to reconsider the purchase of a snowplow for the BFD pick-up. It could have helped a lot during the last storm. If the Selectboard has questions for the BFD please contact us. **Eddie** said he approves of the 100k for the fire truck since voters expressed it at town meeting, and he supports the plow but more toward next winter. **Charlie** said he will call and get a price for a plow. **Ed** said he supports improving communications. The Board agreed to further discuss the ARPA funds for the fire truck at the next meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> for a decision before May 1<sup>st</sup>. **Brendan** said the fire equipment funding structure for the past several years is at its end. He said it would be helpful to restructure the next 10 years and plan what trucks will be needed.

**Proposed Website Policy**

The Board reviewed the draft version of the proposed website policy.

**Board/Committee Updates**

Visioning Committee – **Brendan** updated the Board.

**Old or New Business**

**SB2 WA**; Some questioned no public hearing was conducted. **Scott** said town counsel advised that we followed proper protocol when noticing and holding a public hearing for all warrant articles for town meeting. **Scott** said he will follow up with DOR.

**Part-time Admin/Assistant** - **Scott** will send the job description to depts for posting.

**TAP Project** - **Scott** said the filtration plan on Mason Road is not working, so the plan has changed to redirect the filtration and hopefully solve the problem at zero cost.

**Next Agenda**

Review Town Meeting and Lessons Learned

Task List for Board

Ambulance Report

Review Road Acceptance Policy

Discuss Business Permits

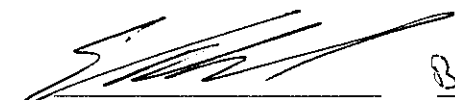
**Review Mail Folder** The Board reviewed the mail folder.

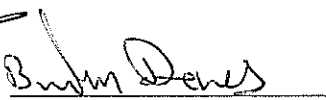
7:44pm **Eddie** moved, seconded by **Ed**, to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) reputation and (l) legal, potentially others; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.

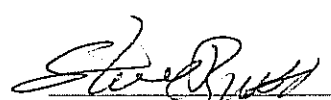
9:32pm **Brendan** moved, seconded by **Steve**, to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes; Voted Yes 5-0.

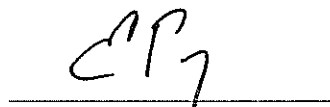
9:33pm Meeting adjourned.

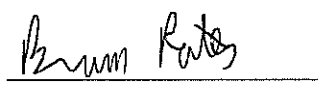
Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.

  
Eddie Arnold

  
Brendan Denchy

  
Steve Russo

  
Ed Perry

  
Brian Rater