



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECTBOARD**

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***Minutes
Selectboard***

Monday, November 13, 2023

Selectboard members present: Eddie Arnold, Brendan Denchy, Steve Russo, Ed Perry, and Brian Rater along with Town Administrator Scott Butcher. Finance Committee Members present: Cindy Lacroix and Graham Loff. Also present: Mike Wenrich, Kyle Smith, Linda Saari, Lynn Giblin, and Patti Howard-Barnett.

6:30pm **Eddie** opened the meeting with the pledge of Allegiance and read the ground rules for hybrid meetings. Finance Committee called to order.

Public Input and Announcements

Eddie announced Kyle Smith as the interim Winter Operations Manager for the Public Works Dept with the departure of Director Mike Wenrich until his replacement. The Board thanked Kyle for stepping up. Town Hall and all town departments including the Transfer Station will be closed on Thursday and Friday of next week for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Preliminary Library budget discussions at the last Selectboard meeting were misunderstood by some residents and did not mean we are eliminating the Library. Eddie read a public statement concerning the Public Works Department's discovery of illegal dumping at the old dump site behind the Transfer Station that was closed in the 1970's. The date codes on some of the material indicated it was from the 1990's. The Dept of Environmental Services was contacted and inspected the site, then directed the town to test material there, resulting in levels of asbestos that the town must remediate. Costs will be incurred. If anyone has information about this illegal activity please contact the Brookline Police Department. Linda Saari congratulated Patti Howard-Barnett for 25 years of service to the town. Brendan announced a joint meeting with the Conservation Commission and UNH this Friday on the management of fields.

Approve Minutes

Brian moved, seconded by Ed, to approve the public minutes from the Monday, October 30th meeting as written and the Monday, November 6th meeting as amended; Voted Yes 5-0. Brendan moved, seconded by Ed, to approve 4 sets of non-public minutes from the Monday, November 6th meeting as written; Voted Yes 5-0. Brian moved, seconded by Ed, to approve 4 sets of non-public minutes from the Monday October 30th meeting as written; Voted Yes 5-0. Steve moved, seconded by Brian, to approve the non-public minutes from the Wednesday, October 4th meeting as written, Voted Yes 5-0.

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Approve Warrants

Steve moved, seconded by Brian, to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #45 in the amount of \$892,922.35, Payroll Warrant #46 in the amount of \$ 82,021.56, and Police Detail in the amount of \$525.00; Voted Yes 5-0.

Mail Folder

The Board reviewed the Mail Folder

6:45pm the Finance Committee opened their meeting.

6:45pm Open Budget Discussion

Cemeteries Brian Rater Proposed	\$27,500 11.34% increase
Recreation Commission	\$47,080 5.2% increase
Election & Registration Linda Saari Proposed	\$24,801 444.96% increase
4 Elections vs 1 Plus purchase of 2 voting machines	
Strike PPE Line - Brendan acknowledged the overseers do a lot more than elections.	
Public Welfare	\$35,000 increase
Health Agencies	\$25,000 7.41% decrease
Patriotic Purposes	\$11,700 Level

Brendan pointed out we need funds for TS remediation 100k.

170k Fire Truck not originally included in the budget.

Brian pointed out part time Facility Director and Library Building repairs needed.

2024 Warrant Articles Discussion

Bond St Bridge Capital Reserve Fund – Finalize number.

Melendy Pond Lease Extension – Housekeeping.

Hood Road Paving opening bids on Friday. Discuss funding mechanism.

Commercial Tax Exemption – Housekeeping.

Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund \$20k per year 4 years.

Police Union Contract -calculate costs.

Conservation Commission Land Purchase needs hearing for Bond.

FD Admin Full Time Need to meet with Engineers and Fire Chief.

New DPW positions – 3.

Request to move funds from 250th Anniv Fund to Fire 200th and US 250th Anniv Funds.

Ambulance Donations - Housekeeping

Legacies Cemetery – Housekeeping.

Town Hall downstairs fit up.

Elderly Exemption increases.

Structure of Fire Department model.

Angie requests – Literacy courses. Local/Regional level.

Budget Hearings January 22nd and 23rd then Snow date Wed.

Voting Day March 12th Town Meeting March 13th

Survey for Dirt Roads might be pushed to 2025.

8:00pm FinCom adjourned.

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Employee Healthcare & Dental for 2024

Steve moved, seconded by Ed to accept the 2024 Health, Dental, Short & Long-term Disability, & Life Insurance policy renewal; Voted Yes 5-0. Brian moved, seconded by Steve, to authorize Scott to sign the Health Trust contract; Voted Yes 5-0.

Town Hall Repair Update

Brendan moved, seconded by Ed, to approve proposed costs of \$145,508 from Morin Construction and \$34,477 from Old Time Slate Roofing, and added a contingency amount of \$14,000 for current Town Hall repairs; Voted Yes 5-0. Brendan moved, seconded by Steve, to authorize Scott to approve expenditures from the contingency budget; Voted Yes 5-0.

TAP Update

Scott updated the Board on further delays with the TAP project. The Board discussed waiting for the state to finalize the project and then send a letter to Dubois and King seeking recourse for their mistakes in the engineering phase.

ARPA Update

The Board reviewed the ARPA fund expenditures determining \$14k left.

Communications & Alarm Monitoring

The Board reviewed the draft proposal of \$216,893 from Hollis Communications, up from \$129k. Math on breakdown sheet doesn't add up, page numbers are out of sequence The Board will vote on the final corrected agreement. **Eddie** said he would like clarification from the Fire Department on proposals for alarm monitoring. The Board agreed.

Task List update

The Board reviewed the task list.

Board/Committee Updates

Energy Committee – Brendan updated the Board.

Supervisor Evaluation Schedule

Brendan will confirm at the next meeting.

Any Other Old/New Business

Eddie said we need to schedule a Fire Department Meeting.

Brian said Police Department reports IT Support is lacking. The Fire Department has several issues but may need a new computer.

The Board discussed setting up a meeting with Ken Haag.

Library Building and grounds improvements.

Ed said Perambulation is waiting on Hollis approval then we are ready to go.

Brian asked about TAP project overruns and where to find the money.

Scott said there have been a few inquiries for the Welfare Director position.

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Review Items for Next Meeting's Agenda

Meet with Fire Dept
Open Ambulance Bids
Community Power
Hood Road Bid
November 1st Minutes
Public Hearing on Bonds
TAP Update

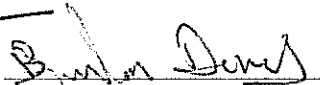
9:10pm *Eddie moved, seconded by Ed, to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) personnel, (c) reputation and (l) legal; potentially others; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.*

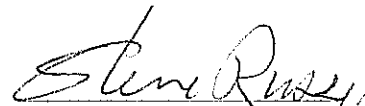
9:59pm *It was moved, and seconded, to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes; Roll Call Vote 5-0.*

10:00pm Meeting adjourned.

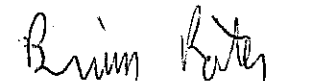
Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.


Eddie Arnold


Brendan Denchy


Steve Russo

Ed Perry


Brian Rater