



**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@brooklinen nh.us

<http://www.brooklinen nh.us>

***Minutes
Selectboard***

Monday, December 18, 2023

Selectboard members present: Eddie Arnold, Brendan Denehy, Steve Russo, Ed Perry, and Brian Rater, along with Town Administrator Scott Butcher. Also present: Ambulance Chief Jeffrey Stewart, BAS Members Trish McCubrey, Deena Hall, Graham Loff, and Rui Loura.

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

Public Input There was no public input.

Ambulance Mason Contract

Jeff said he and the Town of Mason's Fire Chief Burns met in October for contract discussion. Jeff submitted our proposed contract of \$106,234.04 to Mason on October 16th, and didn't hear back until the 29th. Jeff brought it to the Selectboard on December 11th and then on the December 13th Chief Burns informed him that he had two other bids, one from Souhegan Valley at 50K and the other from the Town of Wilton at 81,700. Both are willing to implement the "billing for ambulance services" model that Mason is seeking. Jeff said the Mason contract funds are deposited into the Ambulance Revolving Fund specifically to fund a new ambulance and/or equipment, the current balance in the fund is \$213,200. The bids for the new ambulance are between \$350k and \$405k. Eddie said in an email to the Board, Jay Kramarczyk pointed out that for many years Mason's cost for the Brookline Ambulance Service, did not fully cover the cost to Brookline until the calculation was changed in 2019. BAS members present agree that while they love the Town of Mason, their roads are hard on vehicles, the calls take twice as long, the call volume has gone up with our own town growing, it is wearing on the members and they do not feel the Town of Brookline should subsidize for Mason by reducing the contract price. The Board discussed how to fund the difference for the new ambulance if the contract with Mason is not renewed. The Board agreed to move forward with the proposed contract with Mason as is. If they don't renew, the current agreement ends at midnight on December 31, 2023. Jeff said to be clear, this is not a reflection of the Brookline Ambulance Members relationship with the Mason Fire Department and Rescue, it is strictly a Mason Selectboard financial issue. Brendan recommended reconstituting the Ambulance Billing Committee in 2024.

HR Review Update

MRI consultant Carol provided an overview of the HR project and the process MRI used in evaluating the wages for the current job positions in Brookline.

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Hood Road Bid Selection

RA Powell \$860,768.06. Accura Construction \$919,593.25. Continental Paving estimated \$1,068,525. Eddie said he would pass on Continental's estimate. He compared details from the other two bids regarding common excavation and noted the town has used Accura before and was happy with their work. He would recommend moving forward with Accura for a town meeting vote with a do not exceed of \$1.25 Million. Brendan suggested waiting a year and going out to bid next fall. ***Brendan moved, seconded by Ed, to accept the bid from Accura Construction in the amount of \$919,593.25 to finish Hood Road, pending a positive vote at town meeting 2024; Voted Yes 5-0.***

2023 YTD Spending Review

The Board reviewed Year-to-Date expenses and agreed to use the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund for any further direct assistance needs this year since the Welfare line is over budget. Eddie said everything else except for Legal is where it should be.

Identify and Discuss Warrant Articles for 2023 Town Meeting

The Board reviewed the current warrant articles planned for town meeting.

Board/Committee Updates There were none.

Old or New Business

Brendan moved, seconded by Ed, to approve Kyle Smith's vacation rollover to 2024. Voted Yes 5-0.

Next Meeting Agenda

Encumbrances
Public Hearing
Ambulance Bid
HR Wage Discussion

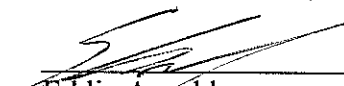

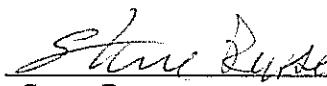
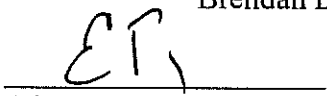
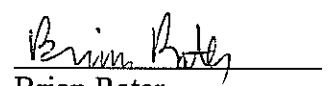
Mail Folder the Board reviewed the mail folder.

9:01pm ***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.***

10:26pm ***Eddie moved, seconded by Ed, to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes; Roll Call Vote 5-0.***

10:26pm ***Ed moved, seconded by Brian, to adjourn the meeting; Voted Yes 5-0.***

Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.

 Eddie Arnold	 Brendan Denehy	 Steve Russo
 Ed Perry	 Brian Rater	