



**TOWN OF  
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SELECTBOARD**

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*Minutes  
Selectboard  
Monday, June 17, 2019*

Selectboard members present: Brendan Denehy, Eddie Arnold, Valerie Ogden, Ron Olsen, and Drew Kellner along with Town Administrator Tad Putney.

Also present: Ann Somers, Brian Rater, Tom Humphreys, Melanie Levesque, Brett Hall, Keith Thompson, Jack Flanagan, Tom LaRochelle, and Mike Wenrich.

6:30pm **Brendan** opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Input**

**Tom Humphreys** began to speak about an issue he had with a resident. **Brendan** asked **Tom** to desist with his complaint stating it had no place at a public Selectboard meeting. **Tom** persisted with his complaint repeatedly and **Brendan** repeatedly asked him to desist. **Tom** eventually left. **Ann** said she had a question about the wording of the Elderly Exemption. **Tad** said the Board of Assessors is working on clarification.

**Approve Minutes**

*Eddie moved, seconded by Drew, to approve the minutes of the Monday, June 3, 2019 meeting as written; Voted Yes 4-0-1, Val abstained. Eddie moved, seconded by Drew, to approve the non-public minutes of the Monday, June 3, 2019 meeting as written; Voted Yes 4-0-1, Val abstained.*

**Sign Warrants for Payment**

*The Board approved Accounts Payable Warrant #23 in the amount of \$186,118.48, 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Warrant #14 in the amount of \$8,566.50, Payroll Warrant #24 in the amount of \$59,427.50 and Police Detail Payroll in the amount of \$2,237.50.*

**Announce July 4<sup>th</sup> Events and Times**

- Parade line up 9:30am; parade begins 10am, Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup>. Two Selectboard members to carry banner, one to throw candy. Ron is driving; Drew is cooking.
- Family Fun Day – Following Parade at the Ball Park
- Fireworks – Dusk July 4<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date July 6<sup>th</sup>). **Eddie** said he would like to collect donations again this year. **Tad** will add donation information to the town website.

**Val** said she was concerned that the new 250th banners are covering the American flags on the poles and thinks it is disrespectful. **Tad** said there were some limitations on where the banners could be hung with respect to wires and vehicles.

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**Notice to Appoint**

*The Board gave notice to appoint Gail Chaddock to the Town History Committee at the next meeting on July 1, 2019.*

**Rich Vertullo (Rec Commission) re Volleyball Lights and Dogs at the Ball Park**

**Dogs at Ball Park:** **Brendan** said at the last meeting he requested the Recreation Commission members watch the Public Hearing on dogs at the ball park. **Rich Vertullo** said the Rec Commission met recently and, with all due respect to public opinion, stands firm with the decision to ask the Selectboard to approve an ordinance to ban dogs at the ball park. **Tad** said **Rich** had shared with him that **Bud Knudsen** stated last week was the worst week for deposits left behind by dogs at the ball park. **Tad** said since the last meeting, he received a text one evening from **Police Chief Quigley**, while he was umpiring a baseball game, stating that while there were no dogs at the ballfield, there were two deposits behind the backstop that were making his job very unpleasant. **Brendan** read a draft of the proposed ordinance. **Ron** said he supported the proposed ban. **Drew** said he would prefer to have it voted on at town meeting in deference to the deed conveying the land to the town. **Ron moved, seconded by Val, to approve the ordinance to ban dogs at the ball park; Voted Yes 3-1-1, Drew Voted No, Eddie abstained.**

**Volleyball Lights:** **Rich** said there is an individual who would like to make a donation of lights for the volleyball courts at the ball park. He said Volleyball would pay for the required infrastructure and Rec would pay to get power to the shed. **Rich** said that user fees would go up to cover any increased costs for electricity to the Town. **Rich** said this is time sensitive since the donor will be moving out of town within a year, so there may be a need to move forward with getting power out there this year. He said everything is preliminary at this point, but he wanted to make the Board and residents aware. **Ron** asked if abutters had been notified and **Rich** said not yet. **Drew** suggested installing the lights first and running them on a generator, then power can be brought out there next year. **Rich** said he will be in touch when he has more specifics.

**Senator Melanie Levesque, State Representatives Jack Flanagan and Brett Hall**

**Melanie** said it is budget season and the NH Senate is doing some "revenue sharing". She said it is a two-year temporary program that would give back \$49,605.16 to Brookline for 2020 and again for 2021 that can be used for any purpose. In addition, she said Brookline would receive education grants of \$121,364 for 2020 and \$627,444 for 2021 for a total of \$848,018.32 over the two years. **Melanie** said this still needs to go to the Governor to be approved, but we are hoping that it looks something like this when passed. **Val** asked about the non-education revenue sharing. **Melanie** said it goes to the Town to use as they need, no strings attached. She said NH made more money and they want to share some of the surplus as well as put some away in the rainy day fund. **Brendan** said the original Rooms and Meals Tax agreement was 60% to the state and 40% to the towns and that agreement is not being lived up to by the state. He said the Town receives about 21% and he would like to see our representatives work to return the funds to the towns as was intended. **Melanie** said HB104 allows for postponement for a town election, but the decision would be made jointly between the town and state. **Tad** said RSA72:7-d is an ongoing challenge since a recent law change

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requires towns to tax unregistered recreational vehicles. He said the challenge for us is that Avitar is not given access to Field and Stream, so they are not able to confirm if vehicles are registered or not and when taxes are not paid, often the notices come back in the mail as undeliverable. He said that after two years of unpaid taxes, if Patti seeks to place a lien on the vehicle, we do not have the required information such as the VIN number, to place an effective lien. **Tad** said we thought a partial solution was for the campground owner to provide the town with year, make, model and VIN number for all vehicles, but we learned that is not permitted due to privacy laws. It was agreed that the Board and elected officials would revisit this issue in August to identify options for addressing the problem.

**Eddie** said the EDC is concerned about businesses in town and expressed his concerns about new legislation that increases expenses to employers such as higher minimum wage. He encouraged the elected state officials to be mindful of such costs to Brookline businesses.

**Update on New Ambulance Bids**

**Tad** said the initially apparent low bid of about \$236,000, which was referenced during the bid opening and is included in the last meeting's minutes was not fully comparable to the specifications of other bidders. He said a committee is working to review the bids in detail and more information will be forthcoming soon.

**Review Proposed Welcome Sign Designs**

**Tad** presented two alternative welcome sign designs from the Economic Development Committee. Board members expressed a general preference for design "A2". **Tad** said we have \$5,000 budgeted and the estimate for two signs is about \$7,500. **Val** said she thinks the signs are too expensive. **Eddie** said he would like to see the signs on the edge of town. **Drew** said he is willing to contribute over and above the budget for the signs. **Drew** and **Eddie** feel businesses may like to contribute adding he and **Eddie** will look into that. **Ron** asked how long the sign posts would last and **Val** inquired as to how long the sign would last. **Tad** said he would get answers and we can re-visit the topic in July.

**Discuss Engineering for Hood Road Work**

**Mike** said Hood Road should have an engineered plan, with specifications, so construction bids can be compared on an apples-to-apples basis. He said he would like to have an engineering plan done for the remaining gravel portion of the road. **Tad** said \$60,000 was approved in 2018 and **Mike** would like to use about \$12,000 for the engineering plans and potentially a Dredge and Fill Permit. **Mike** said DES said they are willing to come as much as needed to provide project guidance. **Brendan** asked if a bid process is needed for the engineering work. **Tad** said the Selectboard has the ability to avoid the bid process and select the Town Engineer for the work. **Eddie moved, seconded by Drew, to allocate up to \$14,000 for an engineering plan to complete reconstruction and paving of Hood Road using Town Engineer Dennis LaBombard; Voted Yes 5-0.**

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**Review Hobart Fessenden Conservation Easement**

**Drew** said he received a review of the easement from Attorney Drescher with a minor amendment to one sentence in "Section Nine". ***Eddie moved, seconded by Ron, to authorize Brendan to sign the Hobart Fessenden Conservation Easement based on the edited amendment; Voted Yes 5-0.***

**Discuss Timber Harvesting on Conservation Land**

**Drew** said he wanted to give the Board a heads up that the Conservation Commission is talking about logging town land for the purposes of both revenue and forest management. He said there may be a warrant article proposed for March that would direct funds generated from such operations to the Conservation Fund to assist in placing additional conservation easements on the town's conservation land.

**Review Mail Folder**

The Board reviewed the mail folder.

**Discuss Next Meeting Agenda**

Tad said the following items are planned for the next meeting agenda:

- Revisit Hawker/Peddler License
- Revisit Welcome Signs
- Bids for propane

***Brendan moved, seconded by Eddie, to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) reputation; Roll Call Vote 5-0.***

***Brendan moved, seconded by Eddie, to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes; Roll Call Vote; Yes 5-0.***

***Eddie moved, seconded by Ron, to adjourn the meeting; Voted Yes 5-0.***

8:45pm meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.

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Brendan Denehy

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Eddie Arnold

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Valerie Ogden

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Ron Olsen

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Drew Kellner