



**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 <http://www.brooklinenh.us>

*Minutes
Selectboard
Monday, October 26, 2020*

Selectboard members present via Zoom: Brendan Denehy, Eddie Arnold, Ron Olsen, Drew Kellner and Dana Ketchen along with Town Administrator Tad Putney. Also present; Brian Rater, Matt Mailloux from the finance committee and residents Roy Wallen and Kyle Lotring.

6:30pm Brendan opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and noted the meeting was being held under Executive Order #2020-04 and Emergency Meeting Orders #12 and #23, which allow for remote meetings. Selectboard members all stated they were at their homes, alone in the room, except **Drew**, who was alone in his car, and they were all participating remotely due to social distancing.

Discuss and Set Preliminary Tax Rate

Tad reviewed a spreadsheet he had forwarded to the Selectboard and Finance Committee in advance. He said it included information on the last seven years of tax rate setting. He said in this process the town has provided both revenue and expense figures to the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) and the school business administrator has done the same for the school districts. **Tad** said the DRA then comes back to us with the unassigned fund balance and it is now up to the Selectboard what amount of the balance, if any, it would like to use to further reduce the tax rate. **Tad** said, at this point, the unassigned fund balance is just over \$994,000 and is up from \$675,000 last year. He said the DRA recommends a minimum of 5% of overall expenditures be retained in the case of a catastrophic emergency. **Tad** said the overall 2020 tax rate is \$27.80, which is a decrease of 6.9% from last year, assuming no unassigned fund balance is used. He said the town's portion of the tax rate would be \$5.77, which is a 17% increase over last year. **Drew moved, seconded by Eddie, to set the tax rate without using any of the unassigned fund balance.** **Drew** explained we are fortunate to have the opportunity to have a lower tax rate, while at the same time approaching an unassigned fund balance reaching the 5% threshold that DRA recommends. **Tad** reminded the Board that this is still a preliminary tax rate needing to go through one more iteration by DRA, but most likely will be where we end up. **Dana** said she is deeply concerned about the 17% increase of the town's portion. She said that if we do not receive school funding next year, we will be looking at a two-year town tax rate increase of over 20% for the town portion and that is a big concern for her.

Roll Call Vote Yes 4-1; Dana Voted No.

*Minutes
Selectboard
Monday, October 26, 2020
Page 2*

Discuss Town Hall Surveillance System

Tad said he previously had a conversation with the Board about replacing the surveillance system at the Town Hall, but has since received word from the surveillance company that they neglected to include the cost of the digital video recorder in the quote. He said they were very apologetic and as a result will include it at cost. He said it increases the total price for the system to \$6,005, about \$1,300 more than the Board originally approved. ***Eddie moved, seconded by Ron, to approve up to \$6,005 for the upgrade to the Town Hall surveillance system; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.***

6:48pm Brendan moved, seconded by Eddie, to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) hiring, and upon coming out of non-public session and sealing the minutes, we will immediately adjourn; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.

7:19 meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.

Brendan Denehy

Eddie Arnold

Ron Olsen

Drew Kellner

Dana Ketchen