



**TOWN OF  
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SELECTBOARD**

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*Minutes  
Selectboard  
Friday, October 27, 2017*

Selectboard members present: John Carr, Brendan Denehy, Tom Humphreys, Valerie Ogden and Eddie Arnold along with Town Administrator Tad Putney.

8:00am **John** opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Setting 2017 Tax Rate**

**Tad** referenced three items that he had provided to the members of the Board for the meeting. They included historical tax rate setting data from the prior five years and five potential scenarios for setting the 2017 tax rate, data on the “Retainage Percentage” for each NH town following the setting of the 2016 tax rates, and the ranking of each NH town’s 2016 tax rate. He noted that DRA provides a guideline, not a requirement, that the Retainage Percentage should not be lower than 5% in the event of a need for emergency spending. **John** said we need to do what we can to keep the tax rate low. **Brendan** suggested as a starting point that if we follow an approach that would result in an Unassigned Fund Balance similar to last year’s level, it would allow for using between \$300,000 and \$350,000 of the Unassigned Fund Balance this year. **Val** asked how we can be setting the tax rate given we are still working on the budget for next year. **Tad** replied that the tax rate that is being set today is based on known figures that were approved at March’s town meeting and the 2018 budget figures the Board is currently working on will impact the tax rate setting done next fall. **Val** asked for input from Tom, Eddie and clarification on Brendan’s preferred approach. **Brendan** said he preferred the scenarios that would use either \$350,000 or \$400,000 of the Unassigned Fund Balance to reduce the tax rate. **Eddie** said he favors using \$400,000 over \$500,000 to allow for a slightly greater cushion in the event of an emergency. **Val** said that her goal is to bring the tax rate down. She asked that a seventh scenario be run with \$650,000 of the Unassigned Fund Balance being used to reduce the tax rate. **Tad** reported under this scenario the total 2017 tax rate would increase 0.9% and the Retainage Percentage would be 0.74%.

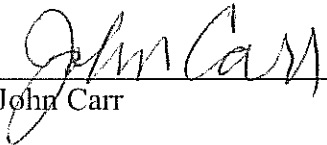
***Brendan made a motion, seconded by Eddie, to use \$500,000 of the Unassigned Fund Balance to offset the tax rate; Voted Yes 4-1. Val voted No.***

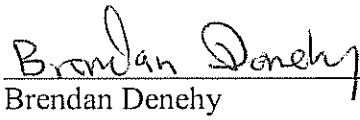
***Brendan made a motion, seconded by Eddie, to adjourn; Voted Yes 5-0.***

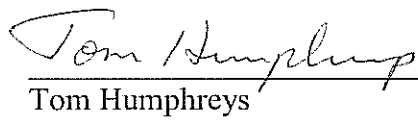
Meeting adjourned at 8:30am.

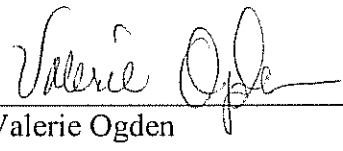
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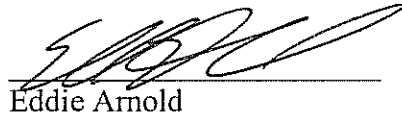
Minutes submitted by Tad Putney.

  
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John Carr

  
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Brendan Denehy

  
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Tom Humphreys

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Valerie Ogden

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eddie Arnold