



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECTBOARD**

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*Minutes
Selectboard
Monday, October 15, 2018*

Selectboard members present: Brendan Denehy, Eddie Arnold, Tom Humphreys, Valerie Ogden and Ron Olsen along with Town Administrator Tad Putney. Also present: Steve Russo, Roger Ogden and Peter Cook.

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

Set 2018 Tax Rate

Tad reviewed two handouts with historic tax rate setting information from 2012 – 2018. The first scenario assumed no funds from the unassigned fund balance were used to reduce the tax rate. The second scenario assumed the use of \$43,000 of the unassigned fund balance to reduce the tax rate. **Tad** also shared a town-by-town list of the “retainage percentages” each NH town reported from 2016, which showed Brookline’s latest percentage of 1.69% would be among the lowest of the towns. **Eddie** said he is not comfortable using unassigned funds this year given the retainage percentage is so low. **Brendan** agreed. **Val** said the Town needs to be proactive with regard to identifying potential risks that are not covered by insurance. **Tom** said he is not getting the value for what he is paying in taxes and noted he is paying \$4,000 more in taxes than when he bought his home. **Ron** said we need to make serious efforts to reduce spending and start planning for expenses five years ahead by putting money away. **Roger** asked if last March’s warrant article funds for the fire truck, which are contingent on receiving a grant, are in the unassigned fund balance. **Brendan** said no. **Eddie moved, seconded by Ron, to not use unassigned fund balance monies and set the tax rate at \$29.86; Voted Yes 3-2; Tom and Val voted no.** **Tad** noted that the tax rate is not official until the Department of Revenue Administration signs off on it. **Eddie moved, seconded by Ron, to adjourn the meeting; Voted Yes 5-0.**

6:57pm meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.

Brendan Denehy

Tom Humphreys

Valerie Ogden

Eddie Arnold

Ron Olsen