



**TOWN OF  
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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**2020 BudCom Study Committee  
Minutes  
Thursday, May 14, 2020**

Meeting attendees via Zoom: Drew Kellner, Eric Pauer, Matthew Mailloux, Karen Jew, Gaylord Sledge

Meeting opened at 7:45 p.m.

The meeting started with member introductions.

**Election of Chair**

Eric Pauer was nominated as Committee Chair. The nomination was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Election of Vice-Chair**

Matthew Mailloux was nominated as Vice-Chair. The nomination was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Election of Secretary**

Gaylord Sledge was nominated as Secretary. The nomination was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Review charter and timeline**

Eric led the discussion regarding the charter and timeline. The committee was approved by the Select Board on April 6, 2020. Drew mentioned that the charter is finalized at this point, however if there were strong opinions for a change it would be acceptable to ask for a modification. The committee had a late start due to Covid-19. Initial meetings were scheduled for April 2020. The committee will use the dates set forth in the charter as guidelines other than the date the findings are due. Eric questioned whether the Select Board had received an opinion on whether the budget committee would cover both the town of Brookline, as well as the Brookline school district if passed by the town meeting. Drew stated that they had not sought an opinion from legal, the assumption was that the committee would take that as one of the issues to bring forth.

Finalized recommendations are due by October 1, 2020. It's possible that one or all of us may present findings at a town meeting.

The following agencies are available for research and expertise:  
New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA)  
New Hampshire Department of Revenue (NHDRA)  
The School Board Association

Drew mentioned that Tad Putney could provide contacts at NHDRA and NHMA. Karen could provide contacts with the school board.

One of the other objectives is to look at the pros and cons of having a Budget Committee, a Finance Committee, or no committee at all, in the State of New Hampshire. Eric has done research in this area and will share with the committee. The timeline provided in the charter, talks about identifying the areas of research. We also discussed that we could solicit input from residents. Drew mentioned that it is more of a best practice to solicit public comment. There is a link on the town website for the Budget Committee.

Updates are due to the Select Board and School Board in August. If the committee finds that a Budget Committee is recommended, it will probably lead to a warrant article to be scheduled in a 2021 town meeting. This would require one or more of the committee members to present at public hearings. If not, the Select Board would probably not put the recommendation forward.

**Select future meetings and dates**

It was agreed the next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Subsequent meetings will be held every 2 weeks on Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**Other business:**

Each member discussed their backgrounds and their interest in the Board. Matt mentioned that it would be interesting to hear from other towns that have similar structures. Eric mentioned that the town passed a tax cap of 8% annually last year for the Brookline school budget. The Budget Committee, if approved, would be limited to that 8% tax cap.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.