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## TOWN OF BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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### **2020 BudCom Study Committee Minutes Tuesday, November 24, 2020**

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

Eric opened the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Eric stated that we were meeting electronically under the Executive Order 2020-04, and the Emergency Meeting Orders #12 and #23 which allow for remote meetings. Eric asked each Board member to verify per the order where they are, why they are there, can they hear everyone, and if anyone is present with them. All members responded.

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Drew made a motion to approve the minutes of October 29, 2020.  
Karen seconded. Roll call vote 5-0 to approve.

#### **Discussion actions from Selectboard meeting on 16 Nov 2020**

Drew – reviewed the requests from the selectboard committee meeting as follows:

There was discussion of the report and ask that we develop the warrant article text. There is also a push for our committee members to take a position on whether we recommend it to the voters. Finally, a good deal of the discussion in general was whether the warrant would be streamlined due to COVID.

Eric – selectboard and schoolboard will want to provide a recommendation. Official budget committees can only make recommendations on warrant articles involving appropriations. If a warrant article does not involve an appropriation (non-monetary), then a budget committee shall not make a recommendation. The RSAs do not govern advisory budget committees, but good practice would be for advisory committees to act in the same way.

#### **Review/update recommended warrant articles wording**

Karen – made a suggestion that warrant article A is amended to end after the budget committee.

Warrant Article A: To see if the town shall adopt the provisions of RSA 32:14 to establish a municipal budget committee. ~~to assist its voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds.~~

Warrant Article B: To see if the municipal budget committee shall consist of 5 members-at-large per RSA 32:15 I(a), shall be elected per RSA 32:15 III, and initial members shall be elected to one-year terms by means other than official ballot per RSA 32:15 III.(Contingent on approval of Warrant Article A)

Drew made a motion to approve the warrant article texts as amended. Matt seconded. Roll call vote 5-0 to approve.

### **Recommendation/Non-Recommendation/Abstain on establishment of Brookline Budget Committee**

Drew – made a suggestion that if we are trying to follow the spirit of the RSA in terms of which warrant articles a budget committee weighs in on, then either both the finance committee and BudCom committee make a recommendation or neither makes a recommendation. Any voter is welcome to ask that question at town meeting.

Matt – recommended that we not vote for several reasons. His recommendation was limited to the fact that we are going to be asked regardless and we are going to have to speak to it one way or another due to the fact that we are the five best experts in town.

Eric – stated that Drew, Karen and Matt would be asked as Selectboard, School Board and Finance Committee members respectively as elected officials, with Eric and Gaylord as the two citizens at large.

Drew – suggested that Gaylord would have to submit his recommendation by email since he moving from town.

Gaylord – would be willing to provide that information.

Drew made a motion that the BudCom committee does not make a recommendation on the establishment of a Budget Committee. Further he moves that we suggest to the Selectboard that the Finance Committee follows suit given that it's a non-monetary warrant article.

Karen seconded. Roll call vote 5-0 to approve.

### **Other business**

Drew – if it's going to be difficult to hold a town meeting as normal, there may be a push to see less things on the warrant in total. This would be to address business that is most critical and defer items that are not as critical.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.