



**TOWN OF  
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SELECTBOARD**

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*Minutes  
Selectboard  
Monday, February 24, 2020*

Selectboard members present: Brendan Denehy, Eddie Arnold, Ron Olsen and Steve Russo along with Town Administrator Tad Putney.

Also present: Attorneys Bill Drescher and Chris Drescher, Hollis Brookline COOP Vice-Chair Tom Solon, residents Ann Somers, Loring Webster, John Liska, Brian Rater, Dana Ketchen, Roger Ogden, Webb Scales, Cheryl O'Donnell, Maria Bechis, Dennis Bechis, Peter Cook, Tom Humphreys, Chris Adams, Elissa Rasmussen and Roy Wallen.

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

**Public Input**

**Tad** said the 2019 Town Reports will be delivered by the end of the week and will be available at the Town Hall, Post Office and Library as well as on-line. **Tad** said the Chili/Chowder Cook-Off had a great turnout with about the same number of people as last year.

**Approve Minutes**

*Eddie moved, seconded by Ron, to approve the minutes for the Monday, February 10, 2020 meeting as written; Voted Yes 4-0. Eddie moved, seconded by Steve, to approve the minutes for the Thursday, February 13, 2020 meeting as written; Voted Yes 4-0. Eddie moved, seconded by Ron, to approve five sets of non-public minutes for the Monday, February 10, 2020 meeting as written; Voted Yes 4-0. Eddie moved, seconded by Steve, to approve three sets of non-public minutes for the Thursday, February 13, 2020 meeting as written; Voted Yes 4-0.*

**Sign Warrants for Payment**

*The Board signed Accounts Payable Warrant #7 in the amount of \$114,109.81, Payroll Warrant #8 in the amount of \$58,980.28, and Police Detail in the amount of \$1,850.*

**Selectboard Candidates Forum**

**Brendan** reminded everyone that there will be a Candidates Forum at CSDA on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm in the cafeteria (snow date: Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>). There are four candidates running for two open Selectboard seats.

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**Announce Plan for Enhanced Tree Trimming**

**Tad** said he and DPW Director **Mike Wenrich** met with Eversource representatives last week. They will be completing the one remaining Phase 3 section of wires in Brookline that have not had enhanced tree trimming along Averill Rd (from Route 13 to Wallace Brook this spring). **Tad** said because Averill Road is a “scenic road”, they need to go before the Planning Board. He said the notices have gone out to the newspaper and Eversource will be on the March Planning Board agenda. **Tad** said they will also be doing tree trimming throughout town this year, as part of their every four-year maintenance plan.

**Schedule for Election Day**

The Board set the schedule for coverage at the March 10, 2020 All-Day Voting. **Drew** 6:45am – 10:45am, **Ron** 10:45am – 2:45pm, **Brendan** 2:45pm – 7:30pm. **Brendan, Ron and Drew** will be present for the counting of ballots after the polls close. **Eddie and Ron** volunteered to help **Tad** set up the polls on Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:15pm.

**Discuss Police at the Polls in the Future**

**Eddie** suggested it might be a good idea if we had a police officer present at the polls going forward – even when school is not in session. **Brendan** said he has not seen any need for that in the past. **Ron** and **Steve** agree with **Brendan**. **Tad** said he had a conversation today with **Police Chief Quigley** who wanted him to convey to the Board that this is something he recommends. **Brendan** said the Attorney General’s office came to the primary and was very pleased with the way Brookline runs its elections.

**Review Pole Permit Request for Milford Street**

**Tad** said a condemned pole needs to be replaced on Milford Street between Pierce Lane and Frances Drive. ***Eddie moved, seconded by Ron, to approve Pole License No. 21-1495; Voted Yes 4-0. The Board signed the Petition and Pole License for PSNH/Eversource to erect and maintain a new pole at the site.***

**Review Invoice for 6-Wheel Dump Truck**

***Eddie moved, seconded by Ron, for the Board to sign a letter to the Trustees of the Trust Funds, requesting they provide timely payment to J.R. Bristol in the amount of \$2,500 from the Public Works Capital Reserve Fund, for the purchase of a replacement cab and doors for the DPW 6-Wheel Dump Truck; Voted Yes 4-0.***

**Fresh Pond Ice Company Historical Marker – Route 13**

**Eric DiVirgilio** presented the Board with a petition signed by 29 residents supporting the placement of a historical marker on Route 13 as close as practical to the location where the ice house once was to commemorate the historic significance of its role. The Board supported the formalizing of an agreement with the State of NH for the placing of the marker. **Tad** will prepare a letter of support from the Board.

**Review Updated Contract with CivicCMS for Town Website**

***Eddie moved, seconded by Steve, to authorize Brendan to sign the 2020 Annual Service Agreement with CivicCMS in the amount of \$2,094.75; Voted Yes 4-0.***

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**Review Mail Folder**

The Board reviewed the mail folder.

**7:00pm Public Hearing re Petition Warrant Article to Study Withdrawal from the COOP**

**Brendan** opened the public hearing with an explanation of the hearing process. He also stated that this is a hearing for the public to be heard and to gather information; the Selectboard historically does not take a position on petition warrant articles. **Maria Bechis**, 39 Pepperell Road, said it is her understanding there were two feasibility studies done in the past, one by the Hollis Selectboard and one paid for by the school board. She said she would appreciate knowing what is going on with those studies.

**Brendan** asked **Attorney Drescher** to address the study requested by the Hollis Selectboard. **Attorney Drescher** said it is his understanding that a similar article was previously submitted by the Selectboard in Hollis and was amended on the floor at their town meeting so that all that would occur is the Selectboard would choose their own committee, conduct their own study, and get back to the town with the results. He said they effectively did away with the process in the “statute”, which would have automatically started a formal process that would have to be carried through to its conclusion. He said he is not aware of the outcome of the study. **Brendan** read the petition warrant article: *“To direct the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board, pursuant to RSA 195:25, to undertake a study of the feasibility and suitability of the withdrawal of the pre-existing Brookline School District from the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District”*. **Chris Adams**, 10 Sargent Road, asked if **Attorney Drescher** could walk us through the process of withdrawal. **Attorney Drescher** said if the article is placed on the floor at town meeting, either by the Selectboard, or a petition warrant article, without an amendment to its current language, you will be authorizing the creation of a committee to study this within 60 days of the vote and then, within 180 days from there, they would need to have findings. If, after the findings, you are still in favor of withdrawal, then you would need to go to the Department of Education with a plan that includes where you are going to educate students and how you plan to fund it. If Brookline elects to withdraw from the COOP, you have to be prepared to tell Hollis how you will pay your share of remaining debt. If the article is presented as is, and not amended in any way, the statute provides that a minority report can also be presented.

**Attorney Drescher** said you can modify the wording of the petition warrant article, as Hollis did. **Tom Solon** said the study done by the Hollis Selectboard, as a result of the Hollis town vote, focused exclusively on monetary issues. He said the other study was the report from 2016 written by Dr. Ken Debenedictis and Dr. John Moody that focused more on the academic impact of a separation. He said the two reports together offer good information that is still accurate today, but from the Hollis perspective. If Brookline initiates dissolution, **Attorney Drescher** said, we would be on the hook for long-term debt for the buildings even though we would have no access or use of them. **Webb Scales**, 49 Dupaw Gould Road, said where do we vote on this - at town meeting or at the polls. **Brendan** said town meeting. **John Liska**, 197 Route 13, said the first bond is paid and the second is not too far down the road. He said if we are not allowed to speak at the COOP meetings then it’s not a COOP anymore. **Dennis Bechis**, 39

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Pepperell Road, asked where can we find the financial obligation numbers for Brookline. **Attorney Drescher** said the Superintendent should have that information. **Dennis Bechis** asked if the Town is going to get that information and provide it so residents can see it. **Brendan** said we are part of the COOP School District and he could get the information from them. **Attorney Drescher** said this is a petition article, the Selectboard is required to put it on the warrant, but they didn't choose to put it on the warrant. He said the people supporting the petition and bringing it to the Town need to seek that information. **Ian McNabb**, 39 South Main Street, said as a student at Hollis Brookline Schools, he is very proud of the fact that it is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest ranking public school in the state, and is concerned that if the breakup did occur, it would affect the quality of the school and drop the ranking. **Tom Solon** said he encourages people to look up RSAs 195:25, :27, and :28, as they provide good information on dissolution. **Attorney Drescher** said if you vote on the warrant article just the way it reads, the statute is invoked and starts a process that we can lose control of. He said if the objective is to simply look at dissolution from the Brookline perspective, we would want to amend the warrant article language to keep control of it. **Eddie** said the concerns are valid and he feels it would be in the best interest of the petitioners to get this information to the voters. **Brian Rater**, 31 Mason Road, said this petition warrant article, because it invokes the law, starts the process of the dissolution of the COOP. **Brian** said he spoke to some Hollis residents who would like to see this happen because they believe many people in Brookline love the COOP and would just turn around and make a deal with Hollis to tuition their kids back and end up paying more than we do now. **Peter Cook**, 10 Main Street, said there has to be some attainable leverage with a tuition agreement. **Chris Adams** said Hookset negotiated out of a similar situation with Manchester in 2016 and they saved a lot of money and now they can go wherever they want. **Elissa Rasmussen**, 1 Winterberry Road, said people are not going to move here if we don't have the COOP and people here will move away.

Hearing closed at 8:07pm.

**Review and Sign Town Meeting Warrant and MS-636**  
*The Board signed the town meeting warrant and MS-636.*

**Discuss Elimination of Timber Harvesting Warrant Article**

**Tad** said after the DRA's review of the proposed language, the Conservation Commission decided to withdraw its warrant article. He said no RSA exists that permits the directing of timber harvesting funds to the conservation fund on a multi-year basis.

**Review Draft Presentation for Town Meeting**

**Tad** said he is planning on creating a second version of the presentation - one if the additional DPW employee passes and one without. The Board reviewed and accepted the draft.

**Assign Warrant Articles for Town Meeting**

The Board assigned warrant articles for town meeting.

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**Review Non-Public Minutes for Unsealing**

*Ron moved, seconded by Eddie, to unseal the following non-public minutes; March 25, 2019-1, April 22, 2019-2, May 6, 2019-3, June 3, 2019, June 17, 2019-3, July 1, 2019-4, July 1, 2019-6, July 15, 2019-1, July 15, 2019-3, July 29, 2019-2, August 5, 2019-1; Voted Yes 3-0-1, Steve abstained.*

*Eddie moved, seconded by Ron, to unseal the following non-public minutes; August 12, 2019-1, August 12, 2019-4, August 26, 2019-5, September 23, 2019-3, October 7, 2019-2, November 4, 2019-3, December 2, 2019-1, December 2, 2019-3, December 2, 2019-4, December 16, 2019-1, January 13, 2020-1; Voted Yes 4-0.*

**Review Agenda for Next Meeting**

Discuss final adjustments to 2020 budget

*Brendan moved, seconded by Eddie, to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) reputation; Roll Call Vote Yes 4-0.*

*Brendan moved, seconded by Eddie, to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes; Roll Call Vote Yes 4-0.*

9:05pm meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.

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Brendan Denehy

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Eddie Arnold

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Ron Olsen

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Steve Russo