



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECTBOARD**

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*Minutes
Selectboard
Monday, December 17, 2018*

Selectboard members present: Brendan Denehy, Eddie Arnold, Tom Humphreys, Valerie Ogden and Ron Olsen along with Town Administrator Tad Putney. Also present: Ann Somers, Drew Kellner, Shawn Jackson, Mike Wenrich, and Tim McGettigan.

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

Public Input

None.

Approve Minutes

Eddie moved, seconded by Val, to approve the minutes from the Monday, December 3, 2018 meeting as written; Voted Yes 5-0. Eddie moved, seconded by Ron, to approve 3 sets of non-public minutes from the Monday, December 3, 2018 meeting as written; Voted Yes 5-0.

Sign Warrants for Payment

The Board signed Accounts Payable Warrant #51 in the amount of \$32,572.85, 250th Anniversary Warrant #10 in the amount of \$550.00, Payroll Warrant #52 in the amount of \$55,075.94, Sick Time Buy-Out Warrant in the amount of \$25,407.00 and Police Detail Payroll in the amount of \$190.00.

Notice to Re-Appoint Rebecca Purdin as Welfare Officer

The Board gave notice to re-appoint **Rebecca Purdin** as Welfare Officer at the next Selectboard meeting.

Announce Appointment of Abigail Reville

Tad said the Town received the official appointment from the State of New Hampshire of Abigail Reville as Brookline's Health Officer.

Accept Zoning Amendment Petition

Tad said we received a petition zoning amendment by the deadline that seeks to change the zoning for Lot K-26, the Brookline Animal Hospital, from residential/agricultural to commercial. He noted it will be voted on during all-day voting in March, not during the evening business meeting. **Tad** said the Board also received a note from the

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attorney representing the petitioner seeking several minor wording changes to the submitted petition. The Board approved the requested changes.

Schedule 2019 Budget Hearings

The Board scheduled the 2019 town budget hearings for Monday, January 28th and Tuesday, January 29th beginning at 7pm.

Ambulance Billing Evaluation Committee Final Report

Brendan reviewed the executive summary of the Ambulance Billing Evaluation Committee's final report. The committee unanimously recommended a warrant article for town meeting in March asking the voters if they want to bill for ambulance services. If approved, the committee noted an additional part-time position will be needed to assist with billing. It was noted the committee members voted 4-2 against billing at this time. **Tad** noted the report included two versions of a financial model that projected costs and revenues in the event of billing. He said the two models estimated about \$80,000 and \$95,000 in annual income. **Val** asked what the part-time position's duties would be. **Shawn** said it would be focused on ensuring proper documentation of information for billing and it was based on information provided by the Hollis Fire Chief. **Tad** noted a primary concern that was expressed at the public hearing was that the town's seniors would be disproportionately impacted by billing and they already receive limited services for their taxes. **Brendan** thanked the members of the committee and asked the Board to accept the report. The Board formally accepted the report. **Tad** will draft a warrant article for the next meeting.

Discuss Payment of New DPW Truck from Operating Budget

Eddie summarized a letter the Board received from DPW Director Mike Wenrich requesting to use some of the surplus money in the plowing and sanding budget to pay for the new DPW truck. He said that the truck cost is \$78,721.10 and he would like to split the cost evenly between the 2018 plowing and sanding budget lines. **Tad** said he had checked with the Department of Revenue Administration and they confirmed the Selectboard has the discretion to pay for the truck with funds from the operating budget, however, they recommend having the Board authorize a check to go from the operating budget to the Capital Reserve Fund and then for the Trustees of the Trust Funds to pay the truck invoice from the Capital Reserve Fund. **Mike Wenrich** said that if the Board approved his request, he would recommend reducing the 2019 DPW Capital Reserve Fund warrant article from \$150,000 to \$100,000. **Brendan** read the drafted memo to Trustees of the Trust Funds requesting the payment of the truck. **Eddie moved, seconded by Ron, to allow the transfer of \$39,360.55 from the Highway Plowing budget and \$39,360.55 from the Highway Sanding budget to the Public Works Equipment Capital Reserve Fund; Voted Yes 5-0. Ron moved, seconded by Eddie, to direct the Trustees of the Trust Funds to make a timely payment of \$78,721.10 to MHQ for the DPW Truck: Voted Yes 5-0.**

Review Performance Evaluation Form

The Board reviewed the annual Performance Evaluation Form and decided that no changes were necessary. Four department head reviews were scheduled to begin at

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4:30 prior to the January 14th board meeting. **Brendan, Eddie, Ron and Val** will conduct the performance reviews, with two board members present for each review.

School Taxes - Impact on Residents with Fixed Incomes

Tom said this is a complicated subject. He said there are generally three groups of people on the topic: those with kids in school, those who no longer have kids in school and are living on a fixed income, and those who are ambivalent. He said he has talked to residents who fall into all three categories. He said in his case property taxes and federal income taxes consume all but one month of his annual income, excluding his wife's income, which demonstrates the challenges residents on a fixed income face. **Tom** said **Peter Cook** has suggested changes to the elderly exemption that will assist some seniors and he asked the other Board members how much the elderly exemption should be. **Ron** said that he views the payments for the schools as a community approach and that we all need to ensure children get a good education and then they will grow up and contribute in the future. **Tom** said the reality is that some residents have said they may need to move out of town. **Brendan** ended the discussion by noting that property taxes are a state rather than town issue and therefore is beyond the control of the Selectboard.

Review Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Approve 2018 vacation carryovers
- Evaluate pictures for photo contest
- Review draft warrant article for ambulance billing

Review Mail Folder

The Board reviewed the mail folder.

The Board set the town meeting snow date for Thursday, March 14, 2019.

Brendan moved, seconded by Eddie, to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) personnel and (e) litigation; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.

Brendan moved, seconded by Eddie, to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes; Roll Call Vote Yes 5-0.

Eddie moved, seconded by Ron, to adjourn the meeting; Voted Yes 5-0.

7:59pm meeting adjourned. Minutes submitted by Sharon Sturtevant.

Brendan Denehy

Eddie Arnold

Tom Humphreys

Valerie Ogden

Ron Olsen