



**TOWN OF  
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SELECTBOARD**

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*Minutes*  
*Selectboard – Budget Hearing*  
*Tuesday, January 28, 2020*

Selectboard members present: Brendan Denehy, Eddie Arnold, Ron Olsen, Steve Russo and Drew Kellner (by phone) along with Town Administrator Tad Putney.

Also present: Boy Scout Troop #260, Finance Committee members Brian Rater, Dana Ketchen and Graham Loff, residents Ann Somers, Roger Ogden, Peter Cook, Linda Saari, David Coffey, Peter Webb and Peter D'Agostino.

**7:00pm Brendan** reconvened the Budget Hearing from Monday January 27, 2020.

**Emergency Management – Director Coffey** proposed \$21,500. Decreased 0.2%.

**Library – David Partridge** proposed \$267,955. Increased 4.0%.

**Election & Registration – Linda Saari** proposed \$11,600. Increased 213.5%.

**Revaluation of Property – Peter Cook** proposed \$32,902. Increased 3.0%.

**Economic Development – Tad Putney** proposed \$3,900. Decreased 46.9%.

**Financial Administration – Tad Putney** proposed \$213,300. Increased 1.3%.

**Planning & Zoning – Tad Putney** proposed \$68,900. Increased 6.7%.

**General Government Buildings – Tad Putney** proposed \$243,498. Increased 12.6%.

**Personnel – Tad Putney** proposed \$610,901. Increased 9.3%.

**Executive – Tad Putney** proposed \$241,425 Increased 6.7%.

**Debt Service – Tad Putney** proposed \$285,917. Decreased 9.8%.

**Cable Access – Tad Putney** proposed \$27,795. Increased 56.2%.

**Insurance – Tad Putney** proposed \$83,750 Increased 22%.

**Revenues -Tad Putney** said total estimated revenues are \$2,657,759.

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**Drew** asked the Board if he could come into Town Hall this week and give his recommendations on the proposed warrant articles as he needed to end his participation in the meeting at this time. The Board had no objections.

**Tad** noted that the current warrant article language was still under review by the Department of Revenue Administration and town counsel, so some modifications to the wording can be expected.

**2020 Warrant Article Recommendations (excludes Drew Kellner votes)**

- 1) **Full-Time Public Works Employee:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$53,119** for the purpose of hiring a second full-time public works employee for the Town of Brookline, or take any action relative thereto. Said sum includes \$36,307 in pay and \$16,812 in benefits for six-and-half (6.5) months of 2020 (the 12-month total annualized cost is \$88,704). If passed, warrant article #2 will be reduced by \$42,000. *If approved, the amount raised will be incorporated into the highway department salary and personnel administration budgets for accounting purposes. (Recommended by the Selectboard 4-0; Recommended by the Finance Committee 2-1; Dana voting against).*
- 2) **Operating Budget:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,071,826** to defray town charges for the ensuing year and make appropriation of the same. *(Recommended by the Selectboard 4-0; Recommended by the Finance Committee 2-1; Dana voting against).*
- 3) **Public Works Capital Reserve Fund:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$150,000** to be deposited into the Public Works Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of public works equipment, or take any action relative thereto. *(Recommended by the Selectboard 4-0; Recommended by the Finance Committee 2-1; Dana voting against).*
- 4) **Fire Truck (Forestry Grant):** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$163,900 to purchase a new forestry fire truck. Said appropriation is contingent upon and will be offset by an Assistance to Firefighters Program grant in the amount of \$155,705 and \$8,195 from the existing Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, IV. *(Recommended by the Selectboard 3-1; Eddie voting against. Recommended by the Finance Committee 2-1; Dana voting against).*
- 5) **Fire Truck Lease/Purchase:** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to enter into a three-year lease/purchase agreement for a total of \$590,000 for the purpose of leasing and equipping a new fire engine and to raise and appropriate **\$145,740** for the first year's payment. The purchase of this vehicle will replace the 25-year old 5E2 and the down payment of \$176,805 will come from the existing Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. Said lease contains a fiscal funding clause which permits the termination of the lease on an annual basis should the funds necessary to make the required payments not be appropriated at town meeting. *(Tie vote by the Selectboard*

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*2-2; Eddie and Ron voting against. Recommended by the Finance Committee 2-1; Dana voting against).*

- 6) **Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund:** To see if the Town will vote the raise and appropriate **\$100,000** to be deposited into the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a fire truck, or take any action relative thereto. *(Recommended by the Selectboard 4-0; Recommended by the Finance Committee 3-0).*
- 7) **Hood Road:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$60,000** for the purpose of road improvements to Hood Road, or take any action relative thereto. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2024. *(Recommended by the Selectboard 4-0; Not recommended by the Finance Committee 2-1; Brian voting for).*
- 8) **Radio Capital Reserve Fund:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) pursuant to the provisions of RSA 35:1, which shall be known as the Radio Capital Reserve Fund, the purpose of which shall be to defray costs of design and replacement of current radio equipment for emergency services and public works and, further, pursuant to RSA 35:15, to name the Selectboard as agents to expend from said fund; also to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$60,000** to be placed in said fund. *(Recommended by the Selectboard 4-0; Recommended by the Finance Committee 2-0, with one abstention).*
- 9) **Full-Time Police Officer:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$51,403** for the purpose of hiring a ninth full-time police officer for the Town of Brookline, or take any action relative thereto. Said sum includes \$31,000 in pay and \$20,403 in benefits for six (6) months of 2020 (the 12-month total annualized cost is \$102,806). *If approved, the amount raised will be incorporated into the police dept pay and personnel administration budgets for accounting purposes. (Recommended by the Selectboard 4-0; Recommended by the Finance Committee 3-0).*
- 10) **Additional TAP-2 Funds:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$130,000 in additional funds to construct a pedestrian bridge over the Nissitissit River on Mason Road and a sidewalk (including pedestrian bridge) on South Main Street (from Route 130 to the rail trail). Said appropriation will be offset by a Federal Transportation Alternative Program Grant in the amount of \$104,000 and **\$26,000** from general taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, IV. These funds will be used only if the funds provided by 2017 warrant article #7 are insufficient to complete the project. *(Recommended by the Selectboard 3-1; Eddie voting against Recommended by the Finance Committee 2-0, with one abstention).*
- 11) **Reappraisal Capital Reserve Fund:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) pursuant to the provisions of RSA 35:1-III, which shall be known as the Town-Wide Reappraisal Capital Reserve Fund, the purpose of which shall be to defray costs of the next town-wide reappraisal of property and, further, pursuant to RSA 35:15, to name the Selectboard as agents to expend from said fund; also to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$16,590** to be placed in said fund. *(Recommended by the Selectboard 4-0; Recommended by the Finance Committee 3-0).*

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- 12) **Ambulance Donations:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,877.50** to be deposited into the Ambulance Service Expendable Trust Fund with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. The Selectboard and Ambulance Chief have already been voted agents to expend from this fund (1998 – Warrant Article #6). (*Recommended by the Selectboard 4-0; Recommended by the Finance Committee 2-0, with one abstention*).
- 13) **Melendy Pond:** To see if the Town will vote to allow for any “operational expenses” related to management of Lot B-55, also known as the Melendy Pond property, to be spent out of the Melendy Pond Revolving Fund that was approved at the March 2019 town meeting. When originally approved, use of the fund was limited to covering “ongoing maintenance...and future demolition of structures”. (*Recommended by the Selectboard 4-0*).
- 14) **Expand Veterans’ Tax Credit:** Shall we modify the qualifying provisions of the previously adopted RSA 72:28 to be applicable to all qualified veterans? Under RSA 72:28-b, a person shall qualify for the all veterans’ tax credit if the person is a resident of this state who served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from service; or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, provided that Title 10 training for active duty by a member of the national guard or reserve shall be included as service under this paragraph; provided however that the person is not eligible for and is not receiving credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. (*Recommended by the Selectboard 4-0; Recommended by the Finance Committee 3-0*).
- 15) **Increase Veterans’ Tax Credit for Permanently Disabled:** Shall we modify the provisions of the previously adopted RSA 72:35 to increase the current tax credit of \$2,000 to the maximum allowable tax credit of \$4,000? This credit is for any person who has been honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from the military service of the United States and who has total and permanent service-connected injury, or the surviving spouse of such a person. (*Recommended by the Selectboard 4-0; Recommended by the Finance Committee 3-0*).
- 16) **Rescind Unused Portion of 2018 Martin-Austin Bond:** To see if the Town will vote to rescind the unused portion of the \$1,200,000 bond authorization that was approved at the March 2017 town meeting for the purchase of lots K-33 and K-34. A bond totaling \$800,000 was issued for the land purchases and therefore the balance of the authorization, or \$400,000, was not needed and should be rescinded. (*Recommended by the Selectboard 4-0; Recommended by the Finance Committee 3-0*).
- 17) **Timber Harvesting:** To see if the Town will vote to direct any revenues from timber harvesting on conservation-controlled land to the Conservation Fund. (*Tie by the Selectboard 2-2; Eddie and Steve voting no. Not recommended by the Finance Committee 2-1; Graham voting for*).

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9:41pm **Brendan** recessed the budget hearing until Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7pm.

9:43pm 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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Drew Kellner

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Steve Russo