

# Draft Minutes

## Town of Brookline Special Selectboard Meeting

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

**Present:**

**Selectboard:**

Dorothy Maggio (DM) (Chair)  
Stanley Noga (SN) (Vice-Chair)  
Bruce Mello (BM)  
Paul Madalinski (PM)  
Somara Zwick (SZ)

**Town Officers:**

Guy Tanza (TZ) (Town Clerk)  
Vanessa Ballou (VB) (Recording Clerk)

**Public:**

Lee Anne Parker (LAP)  
FactTV8 online

**1. Call the Meeting to Order**

Dorothy Maggio called the special Brookline Selectboard (SB) meeting to order at **4:39 PM**.

**2. Members of the Public**

Lee Anne Parker attended the beginning of the meeting to ask for the SB's help in resolving housing for the Brookline Town party musicians, because their original lodgings are no longer habitable because of the flooding. The SB and LAP discussed potential solutions.

**3. Changes to the Agenda**

BM asked to table agenda items 4E and 4G.

**4. Business to Be Conducted/Voted On**

**A. Set Tax Rate**

The Town's municipal tax rate for fiscal year 2023/2024 was presented by category and reviewed for SB approval:

Town Office	0.1862
Highway	0.4963
Town Appropriations	0.0147
Recycling	<u>0.0251</u>
<b>Total Municipal Tax Rate</b>	<b>0.7223</b>

DM made a motion to approve the 2023/2024 municipal tax rate of 0.7223; SN seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**B. Discuss ARPA Fund -**

The ARPA fund was \$159,135.65; the total spent is \$64,227, and the total remaining is \$94,908.65.

**C. Discuss FEMA Progress**

As noted on the Agenda, approximately \$165K in outstanding reimbursement is due from FEMA. Two bids totaling \$34K were awarded for FEMA work to be completed this summer. In addition, there are repairs to be completed by the Town on Holland Hill and Bennett Road. Additional details are provided on the Agenda. The above FEMA work needs to be completed by September 30, 2023 for the outstanding amount to be paid to the Town.

As noted on the Agenda, there are additional repairs that the Town needs to make that are outside of the FEMA work – including repairs on Harris Hill and storm damage from July 7 through July 11, 2023.

As noted on the Agenda, DM did a quick review of the 2023-24 Road Budget.

- D. Review & Discuss **\$110,000 Loan and Payment Requirements**/Schedules for Municipal Loan  
The Town's application for a municipal loan was approved by the State for the purchase of the wheeled excavator. The loan is for \$110,000 to be repaid over a 5 year period with annual payments based on a simple interest rate of 2.0%. The town will need to make a down payment of \$62,500 against the \$172,500 wheeled excavator sale price.
- E. Review & Discuss \$172,000 Loan and Payment Requirements/Schedule from Alta Tabled.
- F. Review & Discuss **Getting a Loan in Anticipation of Taxes for FEMA Work Projects**  
Because the FEMA work must be paid for by the Town before FEMA will reimburse the costs, the SB discussed the possibility of getting a loan or line of credit to cover a gap in cash flow and agreed that the town treasurer should contact M&T bank and find out the details for getting a loan or line of credit.
- G. Shall the Town of Brookline Hold A Town Meeting to Vote on A Loan for the Wheeled Excavator?  
Tabled.
- H. **Shall the Town of Brookline agree to sign the Promissory Note and Security Agreement** provided to us by the Treasurer of the State of Vermont for \$110,000.00 with interest on the unpaid balance at the rate of 2% per annum payable in five annual installments?  
DM made the motion above and the SB discussed the merits of buying the excavator and agreed that it was important to have this piece of equipment to maintain the Town's roads. DM made a motion that the Town of Brookline agree to sign the Promissory Note and Security Agreement provided to us by the Treasurer of the State of Vermont for \$110,000.00 with interest on the unpaid balance at the rate of 2% per annum payable in five annual installments ; SN seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
- I. Shall the town agree to **appropriate ARPA funds** towards the excavator purchase?  
DM made a motion that the town agree to appropriate or lend from ARPA funds an amount necessary to make up the difference needed for the excavator purchase; SN seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
- J. Shall the town agree to **appropriate rainy day fund** monies towards the excavator purchase?  
BM made a motion that the town agree to appropriate rainy day fund monies towards the excavator purchase and PM seconded. The SB discussed the appropriateness of using the rainy day fund. Following the discussion, a vote was taken; 0 were in favor; 5 were opposed; the motion did not pass. The rainy day fund will not be used towards the excavator purchase.
- K. Shall the town **apply rental income from the daycare building** not spent in 2022/23 FY towards excavators?  
DM made a motion that the town apply the rental income from the daycare building not spent in 202/23 in the amount of \$22,500 towards the excavator; BM seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
- L. Any **other motions regarding the purchase of the wheeled excavator** currently being rented.  
DM made a motion that the town apply funds raised by taxes and approved for highway equipment at the March 6, 2023 Town Meeting in the amount of \$18,000 for the purchase of the excavator; BM seconded; motion passed unanimously.

M. Shall the Town of Brookline seek a loan in anticipation of Taxes for the FEMA related storm repairs yet to be completed?

Discussion tabled for August 2, 2023 SB Meeting, after tax bills go out.

N. Any **other discussions not requiring a vote** by the selectboard.

Earlier in the meeting, DM stated E. Mark Bills was helping Athens with flood repairs and that Sam Bourne and Tanner Winot were requested to provide back-up as needed. SZ suggested that this arrangement be formalized. DM will add it to the July 19, 2023 agenda.

**5. Adjourn Special Meeting**

Meeting Adjourned at **5:51 PM**.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Vanessa Ballou**

**Recording Clerk**