



**Town of Brookfield
Board of Selectmen Meeting
October 17th, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Rich Zacher, Chairman; Brian Robischeau, Selectman; Ed Gauthier, Selectman; Joanne Dolbear, Treasurer; Craig Evans, Archivist; Dianna Peckham, Tax Collector; and Chris Kinville, Road Agent.

Also Present: Ed Comeau, Dick DesRoches, Leah Gage, Brad Williamson, Jan Ledbetter, Mark Stengel, and Kate Kinville.

- **Call to Order:** Rich Zacher called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Public Comment:** The director and assistant director for Gafney Library addressed the library's budget request. Several members of the public spoke in support of the budget request of \$18,000 for 2024. The Board thanked them for coming and will consider the request.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Ed Gauthier made a motion to approve the October 3rd minutes. Seconded by Brian Robicheau. The motion passed unanimously with Rich Zacher abstaining.
- Ed Comeau presented a report about the county. He discussed how the taxes are increasing. He stated that people would have to come up with 1.6 million dollars for the county. The selectmen do have a difficult decision to balance out all that funding. He also asked for clarification on preserve. Rich Zacher stated that the town does not have a preserve.
- Jan Ledbetter handed out sketch for a memorial bench for Judy Meaken. It would be placed by the town house. There is no cost for the town.
- Mark Stengel requested that the spectrum policy be updated.

Road Agent: The past couple weeks some work on Pleasant Valley Road has been finished and ready for pavement. The well on town property was also filled with sand. Mr. Kinville also suggested there should be a gate around that property.

- Craig Evans discussed the instillation of a small exhibit of donated art work. In the next week or two, on the wall by the entrance, the exhibit will be placed. On October 31st, there will be documents and papers shredded. If people would like, they may bring their own papers to shred and pay by box. The cost for box would be \$2-\$3 a box. The municipal record committee did go through and checked the documents.
- The Heritage Committee received a donation of \$100. It was requested for it to be put into the Heritage Fund. It was requested that the donations specifically states where it will go.
- **Ed Gauthier made a motion to accept the \$100 donation to be deposited in the Heritage Fund Account. Brian Robischoeu seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Ed Comeau reported at the last planning board meeting, solar panel ordinance was discussed. It was suggested for town members to attend the meetings and discuss the solar panel.
- **Tax Collector:** Dianna Peckham reported that she was requested to give a date on when the taxes are due. She gave December 15th as a date. However, issues with the veteran's exemption have come up. She was unsure where the town stands as far as that issue goes. She stated she feels strongly that since it effects the Veteran's Exemption, there should be a letter should go out explaining the situation.
- **Presentation of Bills:** Joanne Dolbear presented the bills in two manifests with one totaling \$54,255.06 and the second totaling \$126.39
- **Ed Gauthier made a motion to accept the bills as presented, seconded by Brian Robischoeu. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Trustee of Trust Funds:** Brian Robischoeu discussed how the Trustee of Trust Funds met and are reallocating money among the cemetery trust accounts due to disparity with newer accounts. They also discussed abandoned graveyard maintenance.
- The selectmen announced Doug Stefano is now chairmen of the ZBA.
- Rich Zacher stated the town has received the bill from the county totaling \$159,705.00?, due December 18th.

- Code Enforcement Officer Nick Angelo will be resigning with his last day being December 31st being his last day. The town is looking for a new code enforcement officer.
- Discussing the memorial bench, there were concerns raised about the placement of the bench. Because it is not anchored, it is able to be moved and would not be an issue.
- **Ed Gauthier made a motion to accept the memorial bench gift and set it up outside, seconded by Brian Robischeau. Rich Zacher abstained. The motion passed unanimously.**
- There are two plow bids currently for winter maintenance, including sanding. It was discussed to wait after more components for the work are detailed.
- The tax rate setting process was discussed. The 2023 tax rate was compared to the 2024 tax rate. Municipal, county, local education, and state education were all discussed. However, the county did go up
- **Rich Zacher made a motion to approve the \$100,000.00 to buy down municipal rate seconded by Ed Gauthier. The motion passed unanimously.**
- There will be an abatement request for the fifty-four veterans in the town and a letter of explanation. The RSAs will be taken into consideration when writing the requests.
- The 2024 town budget was discussed for the remainder of the meeting.
- **Meeting Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Abigail Root

Secretary