



**Town of Brookfield
Board of Selectmen Meeting
November 7th, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: — Rich Zacher, Chairman; Ed Gauthier, Selectman; Joanne Dolbear, Treasurer; Karen Servacek, Town Clerk; Chris Kinville, Road Agent; and Marylou McLean Heritage Commission.

Also Present: Ed Comeau, Jan Ledbetter,

- **Call to Order:** Rich Zacher called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Approval of Minutes:** Ed Gauthier made a motion to approve the minutes from October 7th, 202., seconded by Rich Zacher. The motion passed.
- **Public Comment:** Mark Stengel inquired if anyone put in for CEO job yet. He also inquired if CEO salary will it be kept under \$10,000 a year and how he is paid. Rich Zacher responded by informing him someone has put in for it, and the rest is payment details and is private.
- Joann Root inquired if the town made decisions based strictly on numbers. She discussed how the library is asking for a \$4000 increase. She said out of about 700 people in the town, there are only 107 active library cards. She stated that a non-resident card is \$20, but with an \$18,000 budget, would be costing the town \$168 a card. She asked if the town has ever considered another way to fund library cards. It was also inquired if the town could have a system where town members are reimbursed. Rich Zacher stated that there are some services the town are obligated to provide. He also said the recommendation will be presented at the town meeting and voted on by residents.
- Ed Comeau stated that last week the county budget was voted on, which is up 17% at around 1.9 million. It now goes to representatives. They discuss and vote on it December 19th, to which hardly anyone shows up. Ed Comeau stated that the county needs to hear input from those concerned about taxes.

- Marylou said the event last Saturday went well. The town house is being painted and will be painted in November. The next event will be December 9th, 9-11, for the Christmas breakfast. She requested for the selectmen to attend. There is a family in town that has a cabinet for the bathroom to store supplies.
- Ed Gauthier made a motion to accept the donated cabinet, but was informed by Rich Zacher there is no need for a motion. They accepted the donation.
- She continued to discuss the food pantry. The food pantry has requested another \$2000 for their budget. She discussed those struggling for food and how the amount of food received has decreased. It is becoming harder to keep food on the shelves and costs have gone up 44%. As of October 31st, they have given out 112,905 meals, 7,425 to Brookfield residents. There will be Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners. She thanked the town for continued support.
- There is a planning board public hearing at 7 pm for the subdivision on the corner of Governor and Moose Mountain Road.
- Chris Kinville stated that Pleasant Valley Road has been shimmed. Next year, Wolfeboro is planning on paving that road. He said it might save money to wait to pave the road with Wolfeboro. He is waiting to confirm with the road agent in Wolfeboro. There is limited space for the town sand behind town office. He suggested going back to the old way and allowing residents to take sand from the salt shed. The plan is to eventually take down the building it is in now. A plan for the space will be developed next year.
- Karen Servacek stated she has the new dump decals and they are ready to be purchased. They are still \$5 each. Absentee ballots and voting information is on the website. Absentee ballot requests are ready.
- The Brookfield's women group wants to use the town office for the "Love Your Brain" class on Thursday evening from 6-8. The Selectmen agreed.
- Joanne Dolbear stated the town has received some state aid, which is going to give the town additional funds for this year. It should be dispersed in early December. One will be for road repair and the other is for bridges. If it is over \$10,000 there will have to be a hearing. Starting in December direct deposit will be available.
- The Municipal Records Committee reported that there were policies sent to the selectmen for approval. One of them includes who has access to the town vault, which would be the town clerk, town archivist, and town clerk. The other discusses archival use.

- **Ed Gauthier made a motion to accept the Town of Brookfield Record's Committee access to town vault and the archival use policy, seconded by Rich Zacher. The motion passed**
- **Rich Zacher made a motion to approve the hiring of Wake Field Polic Officer Clayton Cyr, seconded by Ed Gauthier. The motion passed.**
- **Rich Zacher made a motion to authorize the tax collector to collect the property tax warrant in the amount of \$1,149,250.00, seconded by Ed Gauthier. The motion passed.**
- **Rich Zacher made a motion to issue the \$200 abatement to the veterans in Brookfield, seconded by Ed Gauthier: (Map 21, Lot 2) The motion passed.**
- **Rich Zacher made a motion to authorize the tax collector to execute the timber warrant (Map 21, Lot 2) for \$5,535.00, seconded by Ed Gauthier. The motion passed**
- Rich Zacher stated that the county annual report is available on the website.
- Joanne Dolbear presented the bills with one totaling \$565.00 and the other \$108,122.38
- **Rich Zacher made a motion to approve the bills as read, seconded by Ed Gauthier. The motion passed.**
- Mark Stengel inquired what the \$24 Eversource bill was. Rich Zacher stated it was the meter charges on the salt shed.
- The budget was worked on and read.
- **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Root
Secretary