

**Town of Brookfield
Board of Selectmen Meeting
February 6th, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: Rich Zacher, Chairman; Chris Kinville, Road Agent; Ed Gauthier, Selectman; Joanne Dolbear, Treasurer; Karen Servacek, Town Clerk; Craig Evans, Archivist; and Abby Root, Secretary.

Also Present: Ed Comeau, Leah Gage, Jan Ledbetter, Katie Kinville, Stephen Berry, Chuck Dolbear, Frank Fraizer, Mark Stengel, Marilou MacLean

- **Call to Order:** Rich Zacher called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Public Comment:**

Selectman Zacher opened a Public Hearing to review and accept input on the proposed 2024 budget and warrant articles

- Chairman Zacher presented warrant articles
 - Warrant Article #6 deals with the Veterans tax credit of \$250 for those who served during active war.
 - Warrant Article #7 is about expanding our \$250 abatement to those who served during non-combat periods:
 - Warrant Articles #6 & #7 above are necessary to comply with changes made by the state to RSA 72:28 & 72:28-b respectively
 - Warrant Article #8 deals with creating an elected position for a Trustee representing Brookfield on the Gafney Library Board of Directors.
 - If Warrant Article #8 passes, Warrant Article #9 will elect a Trustee, from the floor of the meeting, to fill the position for one year.
 - Warrant Article #10, if passed will withdraw \$10,000 from the Townhouse Repair Capital Reserve Fund to paint the townhouse exterior to eliminate mold growth.
 - Warrant Article #11 if passed will withdraw \$32,000 from the Property Re-evaluation Expendable Trust Fund to complete the five-year state recommendation for town assessment.

- Warrant Article #12 is to withdraw \$5,000 from the Town Building & Ground Maintenance Capital Reserve Trust Fund to develop conceptual design for expansion of the Town Office. This fund was created to support the future growth of Brookfield. The selectmen want begin looking at conceptual options.
- Warrant Article #13 is to raise and appropriate \$150,000 to be deposited in the Road and Bridge Repair Capital Reserve Fund. Over the last 2 years the town has drawn down this fund to perform repairs on several town roads. For example, paving and culvert repairs on Moose Mountain Road, Garney Road, Clark Road, and Pleasant Valley Road. This article will help replenish the fund to support future road and bridge repairs
- Warrant Article #14 will raise and appropriate \$1,372,365, excluding the warrant articles above, which must be voted on individually and added to this appropriation if approved at our Town Meeting.
- Chairman Zacher reviewed the expenditures and revenues presented in the Town report on the 2024 MS 636 NH Department of Revenue form. This form is the basis for the monies requested to support the proposed town budget and warrant Articles above.
 - Frank Fraizer mentioned a concern about flag expenses for Memorial Day and a request from the Conservation Commission for \$100 to go to the Mountain Regional Greenway.
 - Chairman Zacher Informed Mr. Fraizer that the Item of his concern are built into the proposed line-item budget #4611 of the MS 636 form.
 - Mark Stengel inquired about the use of funds for Public Notices. His concern is knowing where the money goes in today's world where expensive advertising in local newspapers is no longer required.
 - Chairman Zacher clarify that the budgeted money for Public Notices is for individual certified letter notifications to abutters of any public hearing on contested town ordinances, regulations or other legal matters requiring public notification(s). Any unused amount will be returned to the general fund to reduce the tax rate in September.
- **Rich Zacher made a motion to submit the budget for 2024 and the presented warrant articles to the town for their approval, seconded by Ed Gauthier. The motion passed.**

The public hearing was closed.

- Recess was taken at 6:24-6:30.
- **Ed Gauthier made a motion to approve both sets of meeting minutes, including the ones from nonpublic session, from January 2nd 2024, seconded by Rich Zacher. The motion passed.**

- Marylou discussed the Brookfield Heritage Commission and the number of voting members. The original warrant article proposed establishing the commission with five voting members, but due to additional members added over the years, there are now six voting members.
 - Selectman Ed Gauthier made a motion allow for six voting members on the Heritage Commission going forward rather than forcing someone to resign. There was Discussion on issue of having an odd number of members on the commission and expressed that even numbers could lead to problems and difficulties in passing votes. The group acknowledged that having a majority for a vote to pass is necessary, and a tie would result in a failure The motion was not seconded and no vote was taken.
 - Chairman Zacher made a motion to increase the Heritage Commission membership to 7. There was discussion on supporting the Heritage Commission's wishes as voted on by the commission. The motion was not seconded and no vote was taken.

- Chairman Zacher discussed creating a cleaning deposit for any Townhouse rental agreement to ensure the town house is left clean after events. The board members debated the potential risk of users not adhering to cleanup responsibilities and debated implementing a monetary penalty for non-compliance. They ultimately decided to not add a cleaning fee and more closely monitor the situation for future consideration.

- Check list supervisor said there will be a mandator meeting on March 3rd.

- Rich Zacher presented a report to cut on Map 12 (Lot 8).

- **Rich Zacher made a motion to issue a warrant for \$4,929.80 for timber tax, seconded by Ed Gauthier. The motion passed.**

- **Ed Gauthier made a motion to approve the next yoga session for 6 weeks, seconded by Rich Zacher. The motion passed.**

- **Rich Zacher made a motion to grant the veteran's exemption to Doug Stefano, seconded by Ed Gauthier. The motion passed.**

- Mark Stengel stated an abandoned car is parked on town property with expired registration and requested that the Selectmen the police to check its status and have it removed.

- Manifest one of the bills was presented totaling \$168,776.87.

- **Rich Zacher made a motion to approve the first manifest, seconded Ed Gauthier. The motion passed.**

- Manifest number two was presented totaling \$3,581.66.
- **Rich Zacher made a motion to approve the second manifest, seconded by Ed Gauthier. The motion passed.**
- Manifest number three was presented totaling \$18,339.
- **Rich Zacher made a motion to approve the third manifest, seconded by Ed Gauthier. The motion passed.**
- Manifest number four was presented totaling \$2,863.85.
- **Rich Zacher made a motion to approve the fourth manifest, seconded by Ed Gauthier. The motion passed.**
- Letter from FEMA about the flood zone in town was discussed. There will be a Zoom meeting in March.
- **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

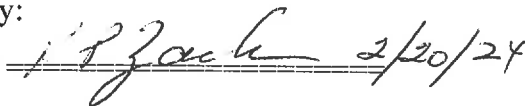


Abigail Root

Secretary

Approved By:

Rich Zacher



Brian Robicheau

Ed Gauthier

