

Selectboard Minutes  
February 13, 2024

Present: Jenn Jones, chair  
Andy Artimovich, vice chair  
Jon Morgan  
Paul Kleinman

At 6pm, Jones called the meeting to order.

The Board signed the payroll and accounts payable summary register.

Artimovich motioned, seconded by Morgan, to accept the consent agenda which consisted of public minutes from 02/06/2024, nonpublic sealed minutes from 02/06/2024, recreation manifest, supplemental intent to cut for 209.060.000, the treasurer's report (found at the end of these minutes), and the following building permits:

- William & Jan Wolff, 68 Crawley Falls Road, Building
- 3 Ponds LLC, 57 Three Ponds Drive, Electrical
- Robert & Audrey Gerkin, 141 Pickpocket Road, Electrical
- 3 Ponds LLC, 94 Three Ponds Drive, Plumbing
- 3 Ponds LLC, 96 Three Ponds Drive, Plumbing

All were in favor.

Jones opened the meeting to public comment at 6:02pm.

Liz Faria, South Road, asked for clarification on the last item in the consent agenda. Jones responded it was an intent to cut for timber. Faria stated she wanted to offer some corrections from last night's Budget Committee Hearing. She stated that the town is not growing as claimed, because the number of residents remains around 4700. She also stated that there are not 13 full-time police officers, there are only 10. Faria asked how long minutes can remain sealed. Jones responded they can be unsealed after 10 years, based on recent legislation.

Jones responded that the town is growing in terms of the town's valuation, the value of buildings. She noted changing demographics have affected the resident count. Jones explained there are more single people living in homes. Faria asked if that was because the town no longer allows in-law apartments. Morgan responded that the town does still allow accessory dwelling units.

Jones closed public comment at 6:04pm.

Karen Clement, Town Administrator, presented the board with a race permit and race schedule for the 2024-2025 year at New England Dragway. She explained there are no changes. Morgan questioned if Chief Ventura was consulted on the permit and schedule. Ventura affirmed he accepted the permit as presented and noted the police department and New England Dragway had a successful working relationship last race season. Artimovich asked if there were any outstanding balances. Clement confirmed that all invoices were paid.

Morgan motioned, seconded by Kleinman, to sign the New England Dragway 2024-2025 race permit to run through April 1 – March 31, 2025. Three in favor. Artimovich abstained. Motion carried.

Clement shared Anna Heard, serving on the Energy & Efficiency Committee, will be leaving Brentwood. The committee requested Matt Lipinski, currently serving as an alternate, be appointed as a full member. Energy & Efficiency will post for an additional alternate position, as they will now have 2 alternate positions open.

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Artimovich motioned, seconded by Kleinman, to appoint Matt Lipinski as a full member of the Energy & Efficiency Committee. All were in favor.

Clement presented the board with Election Warrant for the Tuesday, March 12 election to be held at Swasey Central School from 7am to 7pm.

Artimovich motioned, seconded by Morgan, to sign the Election Warrant for the election on March 12, 2024. All were in favor.

Clement presented the board with the Town Meeting Warrant for March 16, 2024. She explained it has been reviewed and approved by Town Counsel and DRA. She noted articles 11 and 14 are advisory warrant articles. Jones noted there are 14 Warrant Articles. She added the SB2 article is first on the ballot, followed by the general municipal budget. Clement responded that SB2 will be a secret ballot and is required to be open for 1 hour.

Kleinman requested to review the warrant. Jones confirmed with Clement that nothing has changed after being reviewed by Counsel and DRA. Clement confirmed that was accurate. Kleinman questioned if the hand counting article was considered under state compliance requirements. Morgan responded that it is something other towns have had to deal with as well including Fremont and Stratham.

Jones responded that the Secretary of the State would need to be consulted to understand if it is enforceable should it pass. Kleinman believes the State would preempt the town with vote counting requirements, but stated he was unsure. Artimovich stated that because it was submitted as a petition article, it should be on the ballot. He stated if it passes, then there will be the battle of whether it is legal or not. Morgan added that Dixville Notch does not use machines to count, pointing out it might be acceptable.

Artimovich motioned, seconded by Morgan, to sign the Town Meeting Warrant. All were in favor.

Clement explained the Communications Committee had presented quotes for the AV Equipment. She added that the board previously approved \$18,346.13 for the equipment. Clement explained \$8,220.95 has been spent with a request for \$11,256.91 causing the expenses to be about \$1,200 higher than originally approved. Morgan asked if there is a specific piece of equipment that is causing the increase or if additional cutting can be done.

Clement responded the committee had offered some cost savings previously. She added, they originally quoted 9 microphones but decided on 7 microphones to help lower the costs. Clement explained the reasoning she was given was due to higher costs of copper being used in the cabling. Morgan pointed out the cost is still much lower than if it had been outsourced to a vendor.

Artimovich motioned, seconded by Morgan, to expend up to \$1,300 from impact fees to cover the cost of the remaining purchases for AV equipment. All were in favor.

Jones thanked the Communications Committee again for their hard work on the AV equipment and the website.

Artimovich stated that Conservation Commission met last week. He explained there was discussion about a possible subcommittee to court landowners with large amounts of property to consider participating in the bond. He added there is consideration of an Open House with speakers from SELT and property owners who have already conserved their land. Artimovich also stated the commission is considering offering trainings of 15-20 minutes at every meeting. Utilizing Teams would allow someone to offer a training remotely and the commission believes it would be easier to get speakers to "attend" and offer trainings. Jones asked what type of topics. Artimovich responded it could cover easement management and other

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topics. He added there was discussion about town wide clean-up.

Morgan shared the Economic Development quarterly breakfast is slated for Wednesday, February 21 at 7:30am at the Brentwood Recreation Center. He added it is a roundtable and is open to all current business owners and people considering doing business in Brentwood.

Kleinman stated that the Planning Board did not meet. He had no updates.

Jones shared that Candidate's Night moved from the library to the Brentwood Recreation Center. She noted there were parking concerns at the library due to the construction. Artimovich asked if there would be a remote link. Letty Bedard, Middle Road, responded that there would not be a remote link this year.

Jones stated the School District meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6 from 6pm-8pm. She encouraged people to come support the budget and solar warrant.

Jones encouraged people to sign up for email alerts on the town website.

Artimovich stated the Budget Hearing video can be found on the Town's YouTube channel and on the Budget Committee tab on the town website. He noted the power point is also available on the Town website.

Artimovich stated Kip Kaiser, Building Inspector, and Andy Gray, Recreation Director, should be applauded for their role in replacing the decking at the Recreation Center. He stated it looked amazing.

Jones also thanked the Budget Committee for a very smooth Budget Committee Hearing last night. She also thanked Budget Committee Chair, Jack Mitchell, for leading the hearing.

Doug Finan, Gove Road, asked if there was a reason there would be no remote link for the Candidate's Night. Artimovich responded he believes it might be because it was moved to the Recreation Center.

At 6:23pm, Morgan motioned, seconded by Artimovich, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamera Peek

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WEEKLY TREASURER'S REPORT				
<b>DATE:</b>			<b>2/13/2024</b>	
<b>General Fund:</b>		<b>TD BANK</b>		
Previous Balance:		7,307,851.54		
Deposits:		103,756.05		
Payroll:		33,473.32	DDP: \$33,248.21	
			CHK: \$225.11	
FICA:		7765.64		
A/P:		121,604.43	Reg A/P Cks \$74,982.77	NHRS \$46,621.66
			Swasey \$	CO-OP: \$
Transfer to REC CC		100.00		
Voided Check				
Account Balance:		7,248,664.20		
Interest Earned YTD:		18,592.93		
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	Joyce A. Gallant, Treasurer			

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Hello...

I know many of you, but some of you I don't know , so I will introduce myself within the context of what I would like to speak to you about.

Typically when I speak publically I don't like to read my words but what I have to say is to important to me so to be absolutely clear I will read them:

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I am Dick Chamberlain, and my family and I moved to 15 Crawley Falls Road in 1971.

In 1979 , 8 years later, I ran un-opposed for the position of Brentwood Town Moderator, won , and I have continued to run un-opposed every 2 years since then for the past 45 years,

You might think about that stretch of 45 years this way: when I was elected in 1979 our son Ian was 15. Quite soon that kid will be 60 years old.

The role of the Town Moderator, somewhat simply, is first to be absolutely neutral in all things : I have never put political signs in my front yard, nor written political notes to any media, and only 2 or 3 times at Town Meeting I have handed the gavel to the Assistant Moderator so that I could speak at the floor mike to an issue,

The primary work of the Town Moderator , working closely with Town Clerk Daphne, is to create and Chair Candidate's Night,( 2/15 ) - Supervise all Elections ( 4 this year ), and Moderate Town Meeting.

I am telling you all this because last Friday at 5 PM when the sign-up for Town officers was concluded,,,I had intentionally not put my name on the Ballot for Town Moderator for the next 2 years.

Here is why :

A year or more ago I started to feel that Brentwood needed a much younger TM who could help carry Brentwood into its future for hopefully many years, The person needed to be consistently, enormously neutral. They could not be a public advocate for any political party. They could not have ANY axe to grind. They needed to be able to actually listen to what others were saying, etc. They had to resist being dragged into...whatever.

I asked 6 or 8 different Brentwood folk representing the Select Board and other Town departments , inviting 3 of them to lunch at my home, to give me suggestions...and everyone suggested the same person,,,and that was Melissa Hanlon. Melissa had been on our Budget

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Committee for a number of years , professionally she is a litigating attorney for 20 years with the same firm in Concord, is currently Chair of the firms Executive Committee. And is known to have the ability to be absolutely neutral when necessary,

I appointed Melissa as Brentwood's Assistant Moderator and for the past year, she has easily filled in in many Election roles , and got her Baptism by Fire at last year's Town Meeting when dehydration got the best of me. and our Fire Chief Joe felt it best for me to go by ambulance to the Exeter Hospital, and suddenly Melissa took over around WA 14 of I think 21 WA's and did a great job.

I will conclude by saying the following:\* Since Melissa is now the only person running for TM on the ballot I don't have to be neutral and can say..Melissa has my vote !

My term as Town Moderator concludes in March with Supervision of the Town/School Election and Moderating our Town Meeting.

Some concluding thoughts:

\*We Brentwood Citizens and I as Town Moderator have been enormously helped by our Police Department and I have been especially thankful to have dealt with Election security details with past Chiefs of Police Wayne, Ellen, Dan and now John.

\* My friend, our Town Clerk Daphne, could not be more knowledgeable about Elections...many of us in Brentwood know that , and the staff at our New Hampshire Secretary of State's office also knows that.

\* We are fortunate to have at one end of our Town Office Joyce and Heather as Daphne's staff...and at the other end of the building Karen Clement as Town Administrator.

Friends...I have increasingly loved serving the people of Brentwood in the position of Town Moderator for these past 45 years and I believe we are enormously fortunate to have Melissa as our future Town Moderator.

Dick Chamberlin