

Selectboard Minutes
July 29, 2025

Present: Paul Kleinman, Chair
Letty Bedard
Andy Artimovich
Jon Morgan (via Teams)
Jim Michaud

At 6:00pm, Kleinman called the meeting to order.

Artimovich motioned to allow Morgan to participate remotely, seconded by Bedard. Michaud – nay; Artimovich – aye; Bedard – aye; Kleinman – nay. Motion fails, 2-2.

Kleinman noted his vote was due to recent absences. There was a discussion regarding the board's ability to not allow a member to join remotely. Morgan explained that his recent absences were due to his employment, stating that he was employed when he got elected. Bedard asked Kleinman what the benefit of not allowing Morgan to join was. Kleinman again noted recent absences. Morgan stated he hoped the board would still consider his motion. Bedard stated she would read Morgan's motion into the record. Kleinman referenced page 9, letter J the provisions of 91-A:2 III shall apply to the remote participation of a selectboard member at a public meeting of the board by telephone or videoconference only upon the consent of the majority members of the board physically present. Morgan stated the vote was a "really sad statement of affairs." Kleinman stated there would be no questions from the public at this time. There was a question regarding the posting of the meeting. The meeting was posted as legally required.

A discussion followed regarding Morgan remaining on the Teams meeting without participating. Artimovich stated that he does not agree with the vote but feels Morgan should not remain on the Teams meeting. Ultimately Morgan remained on the Teams meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the timing of public comment.
Liz Faria, South Road, had comments regarding the meeting posting and Morgan stepping down.

Michaud motioned to approve the consent agenda which consisted of public and nonpublic minutes of July 15th, building permits conditional upon Building Inspector review, and the recreation manifest. Seconded by Artimovich. Bedard would like to amend the July 15th minutes to include her reasoning for tabling the July 1st minutes at that meeting. The reason for tabling the July 1st minutes at the July 15th meeting was that the minutes were received 2 hours prior to the meeting and that was not sufficient time to review. The motion was amended to include amending the minutes, all were in favor.

Artimovich motioned to approve the payroll and accounts payable summary register. Michaud seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Daphne Woss, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, made a statement commending the Brentwood Police Department for their recent interactions with a couple of Brentwood's vulnerable adults. Woss specifically thanked Officer McConn, officer Wood, Sergeant Saltzman and Chief Doty for their kind and caring approach and for going "above and beyond." Woss also thanked the residents of Brentwood who offered to assist in various ways when Woss reached out for advice via Facebook. Woss expressed concern regarding the difficulties that have been faced when trying to set these individuals up with services such as Meals On Wheels. Woss expressed the need for a Welfare Director that is able to assist residents with filling out the required paperwork. Benedix commented that it would be beneficial to have an accessible Welfare Director.

Laura Hajjar, Mohawk Lane, Regional Associations, had comments regarding Meals On Wheels and expressed concern that there is no way for a residents to contact the Welfare Director.

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Liz Faria, South Road, had comments regarding Meals On Wheels.

There was a discussion regarding the current Welfare Director.

Woss had comments regarding the current “roadblocks” she is running into trying to assist these residents.

Jim Hajjar, Budget Committee Chair, made comments regarding the current Welfare Director and the concerns being raised.

Doug Marino, Mill Pond Road, asked why public comment was allowed for this topic, but it was not allowed during the discussion regarding Morgan participating remotely.

Kleinman replied that he viewed the participation discussion as a procedural, internal policy for the selectboard.

Chief Doty was present to discuss the purchase of new firearms for the police department. Doty explained that the department is at the beginning stages of this purchase, he estimates new firearms will be approximately \$15,000-\$17,000. There was a discussion regarding the models the department is currently using and the models the department is considering. Jim Hajjar, Budget Committee Chair, had comments regarding an upgrade for the current models being used by the department.

Artimovich asked Bedard to read a proclamation before Chief Doty left for the evening. Kleinman stated he expected Chief Doty to remain throughout nonpublic. Artimovich stated that he intends to table the remainder of the agenda “since we took away a voting member’s right to attend.”

Bedard stated that she did request that the “Brentwood PD and the mutual aid situation” be put on the agenda.

“To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Brentwood Selectboard, we write to express our strong support and appreciation for Chief Justin Doty and the Brentwood Police Department. Chief Doty’s leadership reflects an unwavering commitment to integrity, professionalism and community centered policing. Under his guidance, the department continues to uphold the highest standards of law enforcement guided by gold standard operating procedures and a culture of accountability. Most importantly the Brentwood Police Department consistently demonstrates its deep dedication to the people of Brentwood. Whether responding to emergencies, engaging with residents or proactively working to keep our community safe, the department’s work exemplifies service and trust. We are proud to stand behind Chief Doty and the entire Brentwood Police Department. Their steadfast integrity and commitment to our town do not go unnoticed and are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,
Brentwood New Hampshire Selectboard”

Bedard motioned, that the board accept the statement and publicize it far and wide. Michaud seconded the motion.

Liz Faria, South Road, asked if this was in response to Epping and Hampton pulling mutual aid from Brentwood and asked if the board had a plan in place as to how they are going to proceed.

Bedard responded that she did not write the letter and that the board has not spoken publicly about the mutual aid situation up until this point.

Chief Doty responded to Faria’s comments stating that he reached out to Epping to have a discussion regarding mutual aid but has not received a response. Chief Doty also stated that he never received any complaints, phone calls, emails, requests to meet in person, etc. and is unsure of what caused the discontinuation of mutual aid. Bedard read excerpts from the letter from the Chief of the Epping Police Department dated July 17th, 2025; “serious concerns about the Brentwood Police Department’s pattern of unprofessional and at times dangerously incompetent behavior,” “certain Brentwood officers have demonstrated a reckless regard for their safety, the safety of other officers and the general public,” “these concerns have

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been brought to you.” Bedard continued, “after consulting with senior members of New Hampshire State Police and other law enforcements, the Town of Epping is terminating mutual aid with the Town of Brentwood.” Bedard asked for clarification from Chief Doty regarding the statement, “additionally, the Brentwood Police Department personnel are not authorized to operate in the Town of Epping in any way.” Bedard asked if there was any “proof” regarding these instances. Chief Doty confirmed that he has not received any complaints. Bedard asked Kleinman and Michaud if their meeting with State Police had revealed any concerns. Kleinman stated that would be reserved for nonpublic discussion as a personnel matter. Michaud went on record stating that he supports Chief Doty.

There was a suggestion to draft a response to the Town of Epping.

Liz Faria, South Road, had comments regarding a response to the Town of Epping and encouraged the Board to ask for proof.

Daphne Woss, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, asked if the board had sent any 91-A requests to either Hampton or Epping to request correspondence regarding this situation.

Chief Doty stated that he feels the board should respond and submit 91-A requests.

The motion made by Bedard to accept and publicize the proclamation of support for the Brentwood Police Department is still pending, it was seconded by Michaud. All were in favor, motion carried.

Bedard motioned to have Town Counsel compose a response. Kleinman and Michaud suggested the board draft the response for Town Counsel to review. Artimovich stated a response should be drafted and addressed to the Epping Town Administrator. Michaud motioned the Board will draft a response to be reviewed by Town Counsel to be sent to the Epping Town Administrator. Artimovich commented that there is a motion on the table that needs to be withdrawn or failed. Kleinman stated he assumed that was a case as the original motion was not seconded. Kleinman accepted Michaud’s motion. Artimovich seconded. Bedard asked the motion be amended to state that the Chair of the Board is drafting the letter; the amended motion was accepted. All were in favor, motion carried.

At 6:51pm Artimovich motioned to table the remainder of the public agenda until August 12th, 2025. Second, by Bedard. Artimovich, Bedard, Kleinman – aye; Michaud – nay. Motion carried 3-1.

At 6:54pm Artimovich motioned to go into nonpublic for hiring and personnel. This motion was seconded by Michaud. Michaud – aye; Artimovich – aye; Bedard – aye; Kleinman – aye. All were in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jillian Benedix