

TOWN OF BROOKLYN

P.O. Box 356 - Route 6 and 169
BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT 06234

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN
(860) 779-3411 Option 2

TOWN CLERK
(860) 779-3411 Option 4

TAX COLLECTOR
(860) 779-3411 Option 5

ASSESSOR
(860) 779-3411 Option 6

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 30, 2023, 4:00 pm
Clifford B. Green Memorial Building
and via Zoom

Present: Austin Tanner, Ray Preece, Joe Voccio, Lisa Mileski, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Sandy Brodeur, Aimee Jenna

Via Zoom: Carrie Barna, Anthony Baker, Nemeth, Jo-Ann Gerardi-Voccio, Mary Kalencik, Ciaran Wilcox, and other members of the public

1. **Call to Order:** A. Tanner called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm

2. **Approve Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2023:** J. Voccio made a motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2023; A. Tanner seconded the motion; J. Voccio stated that he felt we should amend the meeting minutes to reflect the order of all the speakers who spoke during both sessions of public comment; he also stated that he thinks we should figure out a way to post recordings of all meetings on the website and A. Tanner said he would check with Gabe Bryant on this. A. Tanner commented that it was brought up to him that we did not do the Executive Session properly and stated we should be clearer when the Board goes into Executive Session and who is invited. The minutes of November 9, 2023 were approved. J. Voccio mentioned approving the minutes of the special meeting of November 16, 2023 and this is tabled to the next meeting.

3. **Public Comment:** Ciaran Wilcox and Mary Kalencik both commented about how the time of the Board of Selectmen meeting, 4:00 pm, is inconvenient for the public.

4. **New Business**

a. **Vote on dates for next year's meetings and times:** J. Voccio made a motion that for the 2024 calendar year, all Board of Selectmen meetings will be at 6:30 pm, both in person and virtual, to the schedule that was posted with the agenda with the following changes: October meetings would be the 10th and 24th, no meeting on the 31st; the November meeting would be November 14th and no meeting on the 28th; and the December meetings will be 5th and December 19th; R. Preece seconded; and the motion was approved. (Schedule of meetings attached.)

b. **Priorities for the Year:** Each Board member will come up with a list of ideas of things they would like to accomplish for the upcoming year.

c. **Paramedic Contract:** A. Tanner stated that he had a meeting today with NECCOG, and in 2016, the paramedics were awarded \$85.00, which went up to \$107.00, and now they need \$200.00 to break even. He also said we are operating on an extension of the contract to keep it going and said today they decided we pay them \$150.00 until July of 2024 and then hopefully, by the end of January, we will have a figure that we can negotiate and go forward on so we will have it for our budgets.

5. **Old Business**

a. **Fire Lane Ordinance:** The Board discussed this at length and came up with certain changes they would like to have made to the Ordinance. It was decided that all the changes would be sent to A. Tanner, and he would forward them along to M. Podzalne and the Fire Commissions for them to review.

b. Town Planner Position: A. Tanner said three applicants were interviewed for this position, and we may offer the job to the gentlemen that came in this morning.

6. Discussion on Financials: J. Voccio mentioned that some issues were brought up at the Board of Finance meeting and he knows Shelley Cates is working on them.

7. Approve Bills:

-A. Tanner made a motion to approve Voucher #1289, dated November 30, 2023, in the amount of \$313,319.25; J. Voccio seconded; and the motion was approved. J. Voccio made a disclosure that there is a disbursement to his wife on that voucher of \$556.67 reimbursing her for Election Day expenses.

-A. Tanner made a motion to approve Voucher #1282, dated November 15, 2023, in the amount of \$132,943.84; J. Voccio seconded; some discussion was had regarding road work; and the motion was approved.

-A. Tanner made a motion to approve Voucher #1297, dated November 30, 2023, in the amount of \$1,440.42; J. Voccio seconded; and the motion was approved.

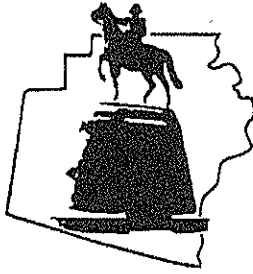
-A. Tanner made a motion to approve Voucher #1302, dated November 30, 2023, in the amount of \$1,121.29; J. Voccio seconded; and the motion was approved.

8. Other Business: A. Tanner stated that he informed J. Voccio that we had received a petition to have a special meeting, and we sought out the advice of our attorney, who gave us reasons why it was not a valid petition, and he discussed whether we should have a vote on it so there is no question we are not going to have a Town meeting and that we responded to the request. J. Voccio made a motion that based on the advice of counsel, the Board forgoes the scheduling of a Town meeting as requested in the petition; R. Preece seconded; and the motion passed. A. Tanner said the contractor is supposed to install the heating units at the Transfer Station next week. The monthly police report was acknowledged by the Board.

9. Public Comment: Sandy Brodeur brought up many of her concerns about the fire lane ordinance, and these were discussed. Sandy Brodeur also brought up the Plan of Conservation and Development and this was discussed as well. Sandy Brodeur also mentioned that the Mortlake Fire Department ambulance crew have made many comments that the paramedics are called out for almost everything now. Kathy Williamson voiced her concerns on how someone who gets a ticket for parking in the fire lane would not be able to pay the fine within the forty-hour time limit. She also asked the Board to confirm that there was no process from anyone in the town other than the First Selectman to approve the East Brooklyn Fire Department using the site in 2003 for a new use, and finally, that she thinks there should be a little more professionalism with what is going on with the Town. Ciaran Wilcox also commented about the fines for parking in the fire lane and the lawsuit with the Ice Box, and the forty-eight hour time limited for paying fines. Carrie Barna brought up her concerns about paying a fine in forty-eight hours and about hiring meter maids. Mary Kalencik voiced her concerns about who would be issuing the tickets, also about paying the ticket within forty-eight hours, etc.

10. Adjourn: R. Preece made a motion to adjourn the meeting; J. Voccio seconded; and the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Mileski, Recording Secretary



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TO: Kate Bisson, Town Clerk

FROM: Lisa Mileski, Secretary Board of Selectmen

DATE: December 4, 2023

RE: Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule 2024

The Board of Selectmen will be meeting in 2024 on every 2nd Thursday and last Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Clifford B. Green Memorial Center and via Zoom.

The schedule is as follows:

January 11 & 25
February 8 & 29
March 14 & 28
April 11 & 25
May 9 & 30
June 13 & 27
July 11 & 25
August 8 & 29
September 12 & 26
October 10 & 24
November 14
December 5 & 19