



Town of Winchester
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470

**Minutes of the
Selectmen Meeting**

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Board members present: Ben Kilanski, Jack Marsh, Herbert Stephens and Gloria Leustek.

First order of business:

The Chairman opens the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Town Moderator Denis Murphy and School Moderator Henry Parkhurst came to speak to the board on the process of postponing the Deliberative & Town Election. Denis said this not an easy decision and people we be mad either way. Denis ask the board how they felt on whether to postpone or not. Selectman Leustek was in favor. Selectman Marsh stated the reason we moved the Deliberative & Town Election to the school was for the space to keep social distant. Also masks will be mandatory. Selectman Kilanski stated he sees both ways. Denis received a petition with 75 signatures to postpone the Deliberative & Town Election. Sept 1st, 2021 is the deadline. If the Elections are held past July, we would use the previous year's budget and all Town Officials would stay in office until after the elections. Denis stated his concern is with the new COVID Stain from Africa and the vaccines are not working on the new stain. What if we postpone and it gets worse and things shut down again. Lindseigh Picard- School Board Member stated that the School Board did hold a meeting at 6pm to vote on postponing or not. The vote was 3-2 to postpone the schools Deliberative until May to be able to meet outside. Within a 24hour period there were 75 signatures to postpone the Deliberative. Last year it was brought up about our elderly population and the at-risk population. When you are prohibiting citizens the opportunity to speak then that's an issue. Moderator Parkhurst asked if the petition signatures were verified by the Town Clerk. Selectman Kilanski stated no. Lindseigh said that the principal did review the list and there were only 3 signatures that she couldn't verify as a resident. Denis said if the elections are postponed, they have to be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Theresa Sepe stated that she sees both sides. Everything was moved to the school for more space and more people can attend. Theresa asked how many people were at the school Deliberative last year and what is the capacity of the gym. Lindseigh stated 175 and the capacity is 140-160. Theresa said that she wants the School budget to pass and to go onto the ballot for the voters to vote on. Selectman Leustek said there is no harm in postponing until the weather is better and it could be held outside. Natalie Quevedo said she agrees with everything everyone has said but would like to come up with a different option for the board. The House had a bill that was held up and that why the governor passed the emergency order. People should be scared to vote and give their opinions. Part of the bill was the allow people participate in different platforms. Like a drive-in deliberative and be safe in your vehicle. It would be hard to put that together so fast but if we postpone that will give us the opportunity to plan. If the gym capacity is 150, will we have to cancel if we reach the 150. We need to look at other options. Denis added the state won't allow it to be a zoom meeting. If we get to 150, we have an overflow area in the school. Selectman Kilanski stated that we can't put this all together in 2 days. Theresa added if there was an overflow room that the elderly get seated 1st. Tina Perkins said that the elderly have been staying home and trying to stay health. They don't want to come out to a room filled with people and take a chance. Lindseigh stated that the school board voted to postpone. The

emergency order allows the governing body (School Board & Select Board) the authority to postpone Deliberative & Town Election after consulting with the Moderator and Town Clerk. So if the Town moves forward with the deliberative and town voting on the same day the school board will most likely work to implement the drive-thru voting protocol that was part of the Senate Bill 2. So we don't incur any additional cost for voting day. Natalie asked Denis if the town did move forward with the scheduled deliberative, you had mentioned overflow rooms was it discussed with the school board and is there a plan already. Selectman Kilanski said that there is a lot of planning that needs to be done. Denis said if the board picks a date that's it. We can keep kicking it down the road. Selectman Kilanski said he was not ready to give a new date. I don't want to see it postpone to July but would be ok with a month and let the moderators decide. Selectman Leustek said her personal recommendation would be to postpone to May or June when the weather is more favorable.

Second order of business: Minutes & New Business

The board reviews the minutes of 1-20-21 for approval. Selectman Stephens makes a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to sign the CDFR agreement for the feasibility study for a ramp at the Town Beach. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Ashuelot Rail Trail Committee has asked the Select Board to support an intent letter to apply for a TAP Grant (Transportation Alternatives Program Grant). This grant is an 80/20 match. The board agrees to support the grant but would like more information on the amount and the timeframe to apply.

The board reviews and approves the following financial documents:

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve voiding the check from sewer capital reserve account in the amount of \$5,248.21. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0. The check was lost in the mail.

Selectman Leustek makes a motion to approve the wire to WS US Sales Co. in the amount of \$5,168.21. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

Selectman Marsh makes a motion to approve line transfers for the PD adjustment in the salary lines. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 5-0.

Denis Murphy came back to the meeting and stated that he and Henry Parkhurst have decided to leave the Deliberative and Elections as scheduled; February 6th and March 9th.

Lindseigh Picard stated that the Emergency Order #83 is clear that the governing body (School Board & Select Board) the authority to postpone Deliberative & Town Election. The School is not holding the Deliberative session on Saturday. Selectman Kilanski asked for Denis to get clarification from the State.

James Rokes Jr stated that the school board should have consulted with the school Moderator and invited to the meeting they had at 6pm to hear his opinion.

Third order of business Board comment:

Selectman Marsh stated that TD Bank will be closing the Winchester branch as of April 23rd, 2021. The bank is looking for a location for an ATM. Having a bank in town is very important to the residents. Especially the elderly residents. I believe the board should draft a letter to TD Bank. The board agrees. Tina Perkins asked if the town can call other banks to see if they would be interested in having a location in Winchester. Selectman Marsh stated that we could but the bank plans on paying the lease until end of the lease agreement. Banks don't

like to own the build; they like to lease. Natalie Quevedo said what if the RED Committee was to look at what the residents want.

Fourth order of business Public comment:

N/A

Nonpublic under RSA 91-A:3II (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)

Selectman Leustek makes a motion to enter nonpublic session under “a, b, c & e”. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0. A roll call vote was taken, and members vote “yes” individually, and the board convenes in non-public at 8:15pm.

Adjournment

The board reconvenes in public session at 8:55pm.

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to seal the minutes under c. Selectman Marsh seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

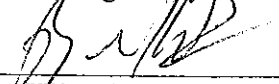
The board accepted Jamie Labe-Thayer Library resignation.

Selectman Kilanski makes a motion to recess at 8:58pm and continue the meeting Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 6pm. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.

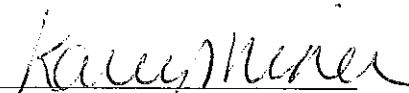
Minutes respectfully submitted:

Karey Miner, Town Administrator

Minutes signed by:



Ben Kilanski Chairman



Karey Miner