



Town of Winchester
1 Richmond Road Winchester, NH 03470
**Minutes of the
Selectmen Meeting**
Thursday, January 28, 2021

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

Reconvened from Wednesday, Jan 20th

The Chairman reconvenes the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Jim Tetreault- Town Clerk informed the board that both Moderators, Denis Murphy & Henry Parkhurst and Lindseigh Picard-School board member spoke at 10:30 this morning to go over the process of postponing the Deliberative & Town Election. Jim also stated that he spoke to Selectman Kilanski as well. Emergency Order #83 does give governing body (School Board & Select Board) the authority to postpone Deliberative & Town Election. Jim has concerns with the governance of both the school & town and it is important that both boards work together and hold one election. It's the town/school's obligation to make this process easy and cost effective for the residents/voters. Selectman Marsh asked if there were any deadlines in the statute. Jim stated that it allows town/schools to postpone the 2nd Tuesday of April, May, June or July. Jim suggested the dates of the School Deliberative-April 3rd, Town Deliberative-April 10th and Elections May 11th. There are several things that happen behind the scenes that are time sensitive for the Clerk, Finance and Administrator. Selectman Marsh asked if your dates take into effect a snow date. Jim said no. Denis stated that if we have it outside the boards might want to think about a tent, but if there is bad weather the Moderator can postpone/delay if necessary, for 72 hours. Jim said he would notify all the candidates that have filled for office that Deliberative has been postponed. Lindseigh stated that the School Board held an emergency meeting to vote on a date and chose April 10th Deliberative with the Election on May 11th. Also discussed holding both school & town Deliberative sessions on the same day outside. School starts at 9am and the Town starts at 1pm or vice versa. Lindseigh also stated that there might be some COVID funds to help with some additional cost. Selectman Marsh said with the new strain of virus here in the US, what happens in May and we need to postpone again. Lindseigh said that we only can make the best decision today on what we know now. Selectman Marsh asked if the School Moderator was informed of the meeting tonight at the school. Lindseigh said that during the meeting in the morning with both moderators everyone advised of the meeting at 5:30. Selectman Leustek said we need to focus on the Deliberative sessions not voting day where you can vote by absentee ballot. Lindseigh stated the school board did discuss the drive-thru option and are not for it as there is a lot of room for error. Selectman Marsh stated he agrees with the Moderators to leave the dates as scheduled. Selectman Marsh asked what the vote was at the school. Lindseigh said 4-1. Selectman Kilanski is thinking 2 Deliberative sessions. It will be a long day for the Moderators, workers and the residents. Space wise still have it at the school whether it is inside or out. Selectman Kilanski said how would April 10th for the School and April 17th for the Town and elections May 11th. Both Jim and Denis said that its not enough time for LHS to create the absentee ballots and get them mailed out. Brenden Hubbard concern is renting a tent for 2 days and the cost. Natalie Quevedo stated that seems that the Select board & School Board have come to an agreement on what's best for the town and

keeping the voting day the same. COVID is here, it's not going away time soon and people can meet outside now. Like Denis said we can postpone 72 hours if the weather is bad. I think we are talking in circles so let's vote. Selectman Kilanski stated that he was listening to all the comments and have some input before any decision is made. Jim said that he would like the candidates to wait putting up their campaign signs now that we plan on postponing the elections. The board agreed.

Selectman Kilanski make a motion that the Town's Deliberative is April 3rd @9am. and the School's Deliberative is April 10th and Elections will be held May 11th 8-7pm. Selectman Stephens seconds the motion. The motion carries 3-1.

Adjournment

Selectman Stephens makes a motion to adjourn at 6:48pm. Selectman Leustek seconds the motion. The motion carries 4-0.


Minutes respectfully submitted:

Karey Miner, Town Administrator

Minutes signed by:



Ben Kilanski Chairman



Karey Miner