

**Town of Boscawen
Select Board
EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 13, 2023 at 11:00 AM**

Virtual Attendance: Lorrie Carey, Matt Burdick, Charlie Niebling, Katie Phelps, Nicole Hoyt, Kellee Easler, Kate Merrill, Gary Moore, Sarah Gerlack, Kevin Wyman, Jason Killary, Kearsten O'Brien, Dean Hollins, and Tim Kenney.

Guests: Attorney Michael Courtney – Upton & Hatfield, Attorney Timothy Sullivan – Upton & Hatfield

Moderator Charlie Niebling noted this was an emergency meeting to discuss Town Meeting and Voting ahead of the impending snowstorm. There is currently a National Weather Event warning. He noted that he had made a preliminary decision to postpone town meeting to Saturday, March 25th at 9:00am at Boscawen Elementary School, but leave town election voting as planned for Tuesday, March 14th from 7:00am to 7:00pm. Moderator Niebling asked for input regarding postponement from Select Board members as well as Department Heads.

Select Board member Lorrie Carey questioned what the sufficient notice would be for the bond warrant article if a date change were made. Town Administrator Katie Phelps noted that per bond counsel the Town Meeting postponement requires the Moderator to note a date/time/place and inform citizens by all means available, and that no additional stipulation regarding notice requirements applies to a rescheduled meeting in which a bond vote will be taken.

EMD Jason Killary asked if voting could be moved to Boscawen Elementary School. Moderator Niebling said we aren't sure when a school closure would be given. He was concerned that it would create further confusion to voters as we have spent the last few months notifying them of the new polling location at the Boscawen Public Library.

Town Clerk Nicole Hoyt questioned if the Town has until 6:00pm tonight to make the decision. Moderator Niebling said he would prefer not to wait that long as we are encouraging voters to use absentee ballots and deliver them by 5:00pm this evening if they are concerned with traveling in the snowstorm tomorrow.

Voting machine battery backup was discussed. There is a backup battery for the voting machine. Generator power for the elevator was discussed. There is no generator power to the elevator if there is a loss of power to the building.

Moderator Niebling noted that the warrant is long this year and a Saturday morning would allow more time to get through the articles in lieu of a weekday evening. If business went until 11:00pm on a weekday evening it may need to be recessed to another date to complete.

Select Board member Carey said that if they were to continue with Town Meeting as scheduled the Public Works Department and Police Department wouldn't be available to participate or respond to resident questions. The late night meeting would also pose a higher risk for those

driving in the dark on hazardous roadways. It was also noted that there would not be any school district staff available to maintain the parking lot or sidewalks at Boscawen Elementary School that evening, therefore making access more difficult and dangerous for residents.

Select Board member Matt Burdick said he would prefer to keep official ballot voting on March 14th and change the Town Meeting to Saturday, March 25th at 9:00am at BES.

Moderator Niebling noted per discussions and input that pursuant to RSA 669:1-a he is making the decision to keep the date and time of voting on the official ballot unchanged. It will be March 14th from 7:00am to 7:00pm at the Boscawen Public Library as originally posted. The Public Works Department and Facilities Department will ensure that the parking lot is maintained and sidewalks shoveled and salted. Residents are encouraged to request an absentee ballot at the Town Clerk's office if they are concerned about traveling in the weather. It can be returned prior to 5:00pm on March 13, 2023.

Moderator Niebling said per RSA 40:4 and the above mentioned potential hazards and staff availability he is postponing Town Meeting to Saturday, March 25th at 9:00am at Boscawen Elementary School, 1 B.E.S.T. Avenue, Boscawen, NH 03303.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Phelps