

**Holderness Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2021**

**Select Board Members Present:** Jill White at the Town Office. Vice Chair, Woodie Laverack, Sam Brickley and Kelly Schwaner were present by remote link.

**Others Present:** Town Administrator, Michael Capone, at the Town Office, Town Moderator, Dan Rossner, Chair, Holderness Central School Board Chair, Carolyn Mello, Holderness Central School Board Member, Joanne Pearce and Jason Kropp, all by remote link.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM in the first floor main office. Ms. White, and the Town Administrator were in the building in separate offices on the first floor. All others were attending remotely.

Ms. White read the following into the record: Due to the ongoing emergency orders in place, the Board is operating under RSA 91-A:2 that allows for remote participation by Board Members. Limited socially distanced seating is available in the second-floor meeting room. Remote access to the meeting, is available by invitation.

Ms. White then polled all meeting participants to ask if they had anyone else present in the room with them and if the meeting was being recorded.

**Old Business – Second Session Town Meeting Date -continued** - Ms. White noted that the matter of changing the date for the second session of Town Meeting had been discussed by the Board at their February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. At that time, it had been suggested that Town Moderator, Dan Rossner, be contacted to get his input with regard to possibly changing the date. Mr. Rossner was now present at the meeting along with Carolyn Mello, Chair of the Holderness Central school Board and Joanne Pearce, a School Board member.

Ms. White asked Mr. Rossner for his thoughts on the matter. Mr. Rossner noted that the decision was ultimately up to the Select Board and the School Board. He understood the concern with in person meetings, but felt that the format suggested by HB1129 which include drive thru voting would restrict participation and input at the meeting. He also noted that rescheduling the meeting to a later date would impact the process for notifying teachers of their contract renewals which has to occur by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. White asked for input from Holderness Central School Board Chair, Carolyn Mello. Ms. Mello commented that the School Board had discussed the importance of in person meetings. She also felt that having a joint meeting was important so as to not have people attending multiple meetings. She mentioned that in addition to using the auditorium/gymnasium at the School other rooms could be utilized to provide adequate social distancing as required.

Ms. Pearce shared a similar sentiment as Ms. Mello.

Ms. White asked if Mr. Kropp had any comment. He noted that the Board seemed to be considering the needs adequately.

Ms. White then asked the Board members for their thoughts on the matter.

Mr. Laverack asked if there was any information available as to what other Towns were doing. Mr. Rossner noted that Waterville Valley had moved their second session to May. Mr. Rossner also mentioned that he had spoken with all of the Town Moderators in the other School District towns and they were comfortable with face-to-face meetings.

The Town Administrator noted, that, in speaking with Town Counsel, they had indicated having received more inquiries with regard to moving the location of the meeting to a larger venue, than changing the date of the meeting. He was aware that the Town of Canterbury was considering moving the date of the second session. Other than that, he had no quantitative information with regard to who was considering changing their meeting dates, but noted that some Towns had mentioned moving forward with the usual second session date with socially distanced meetings.

Mr. Laverack asked if provisions would be made for people who did not want to wear a mask. Mr. Rossner noted that separate rooms would be made available for attendees who did not wear masks if necessary. An Assistant Moderator could be appointed to monitor any additional rooms,

Mr. Brickley indicated that he was not inclined to consider moving the meeting given all of the variables involved and would also not want to consider the process as outlined in HB1129 as it would limit participation. He also noted that this year's warrant is pretty straight forward.

Ms. Schwaner commented that it would be difficult to please everyone with regard to the date. She felt that proper social distancing could be arranged in the meeting space to accommodate an in-person meeting.

Ms. Schwaner asked Ms. White for her thoughts on the matter. Ms. White indicated that she had no worries that a socially distanced in person meeting could be held.

There being no other discussion on the matter and no motion to reconsider the vote from the January 19th meeting, the original vote stands.

**Non-Public Session: RSA 91A:3, II (I), if necessary – None**

**Adjournment:** With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Laverack moved, with a second from Ms. Schwaner to adjourn the meeting at 5:57PM. The Board voted 4-0 in favor of adjournment by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Capone  
Town Administrator