

TOWN OF HILL

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

February 9, 2021

Selectmen Present: Tom Seymour, Bob Dupuis, & Lisa Seymour (Administrative Assistant)

Selectmen Absent: Shaun Bresnahan

Public: Eric Herr, Bill Wilson, Carol Asher Snow and Joann Irving

Tom Seymour brought the meeting to order at 6:29 pm.

First order of business was to make sure everyone was respecting the physical distancing and wearing masks orders issued by Governor Sununu.

Business Meeting:

To discuss the Town Meeting schedule: Eric Herr stated that the traditional town meeting can't take place during COVID-19 per the governor's orders on large gatherings.

HB 1129 section 8:3 Temporary Optional Town Meeting Procedures: State of Emergency. Towns, village districts and school districts that are unable to hold in-person annual meetings in 2020 or 2021 due to novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) may conduct virtual meetings in accordance with this section.

- 1) The governing body shall host a live virtual meeting and information session, during which the proposed optional town or school district meeting procedures shall be outlined, and warrant articles discussed. After the live, virtual meeting is adjourned, questions and comments from the public shall be solicited and received via electronic mail, voice mail, text message or by other electronic means.
- 2) The governing body shall hold another live virtual meeting to consider and address comments received from the public. The governing body shall then discuss, debate, and be permitted to amend the posted warrant. The final warrant, as amended, shall then be made available electronically for printing by the voters to be brought to the voting session, which shall be scheduled for a date and time to be determined by the governing body.
- 3) Voting on the final warrant articles shall be by secret ballot cast by voters through drive-up procedures to ensure appropriate social distancing. In a town or district that uses the official ballot for the election of officers and has not yet held its town or district election, an official ballot will be printed for the election of officers and other items that are required to be placed on the official ballot. All other warrant articles will be printed on a separate ballot ("the alternative ballot").
- 4) The first article on the alternative ballot shall ask whether voters approve these optional meeting procedures. If the optional procedures are not approved by a simple majority, all other warrant articles shall be deemed disapproved. However, the election of officers and action on other items on the initial ballot will be effective. If the optional voting procedures are approved, then all other votes on warrant articles shall be deemed the final action of the meeting, provided that if the operating budget warrant article is not approved, the governing body may vote to:
(a) Convene a meeting before September 1 to adopt an operating budget; or (b) Elect to deem that the meeting has adopted the previous years' operating budget article, not including separate warrant articles.

The process outlined above will be the process that the Town of Hill will be following for their elections of officers and warrant articles.

Eric Herr thinks the crowds will be low because they don't want to spread the virus. The first action would be the absentee ballots.

We will need to set the vote and meeting dates and after that we can set the Budget Committee public hearings for both the town and school budgets.

After much discussion on what the process was going to be, the consensus was to set May 11th as the official ballot day for the elected officials, proposed budgets, and warrant articles for both the town and school.

The first question that Carol Asher Snow had was on the warrant article ballot. Do you approve of this process? If so, we move forward. If not, the governing body may vote to: (a) Convene a meeting before September 1 to adopt an operating budget; or (b) Elect to deem that the meeting has adopted the previous years' operating budget article, not including separate warrant articles in accordance with HB 1129 8:3-4 (referenced above).

If an outgoing official is not running for office he or she must remain in the position until the new official for the position is sworn in.

This information will be posted on the town website, two public locations and through a mailing.

The Hill General Store has offered the radio broadcast device that they used to broadcast the Santa program. We will just need to let Marsha Foden know when we would need the equipment.

George Wilson asked what happens if the budget committee doesn't provide a budget. If they don't provide a budget, then it's the Selectmen's budget that would be voted upon at the Town meeting.

Eric Herr will check with the lawyers to confirm on the meetings having to be on the second Tuesday of the month. For example: April 13th, May 11th, June 8th or July 13th.

Jamie Dow from the Department of Revenue is looking for our preliminary warrant articles and if we are pushing out the dates for our meetings.

The dates are set for the Budget Committee public hearings. Town public hearing will be March 3, 2021 at 7 pm via a ZOOM webinar. School public hearing will be March 10, 2021 at 7 pm via a ZOOM webinar. The information for these meetings will be announced.

There will be a mailer send to the residents which will include the town warrants and school warrants and the voting process.

Carol Asher Snow will bring this information to the school board meeting on February 17, 2021 for further discussion.

The dates and process for all will be announced soon.

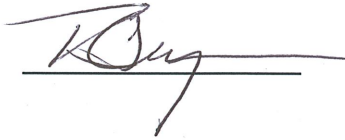
Robert Dupuis made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Thomas Seymour seconded the motion.

With no further business to conduct, motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:22 pm.

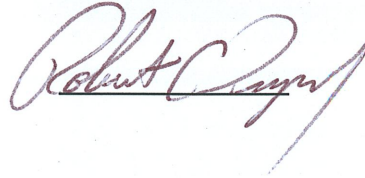
Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A. Seymour

Tom Seymour, Chairman

Handwritten signature of Tom Seymour in black ink, featuring a stylized 'T' and 'S' with a horizontal line underneath.

Robert Dupuis

Handwritten signature of Robert Dupuis in black ink, written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Shaun Bresnahan

Handwritten signature of Shaun Bresnahan in black ink, written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.