

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SELECT BOARD

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

**Monday February 1, 2021**

**Via Zoom Call**

**6:00 PM**

**Select Board members on the call:** George Willard, Bill Ezell, and Ken Caisse

**Other Attendees:** Connie Kieley, Joyce Kullgren, Christine Robidoux, Bruce Kullgren, Gail Cromwell, Scott Hecker, John Kieley, Honey Hastings, Sean Radcliffe, Ben Fisk, Elizabeth Maxcy-Humphrey, Lilliane Lebel, Krista Stringer, Tim Fiske, Cam Lockwood & Carole Singelais.

Meeting called to order by Caisse at 6:00 PM.

**Chairman Ken Caisse Remarks:**

- ***Caisse reminded participants that the meeting was being held electronically pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8, Emergency Order #12, Section 3.***

**Public Comment:** *Christine Robidoux provided a broadband update stating she spoke with the bond bank and noted they can give us some flexibility if we go with them for financing. Robidoux also spoke with the DOR and noted the date for the warrant article for the bond is Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. She also spoke with broadband legal counsel who said it will help them if town meeting is delayed to give them some breathing room. She also noted we have not heard back from Comcast regarding the letter sent to them on Friday with the maps they requested.*

**Business:**

- **Town Forest – Ben Fisk:** *Scott Hecker from the Conservation committee indicated he sent the select board a letter regarding Ben's use of the town forest, earlier today. He noted all committee members are on this call to assist with any questions. Caisse asked Ben what was going on that he wanted to address tonight. Fisk referenced information he saw on the town website and asked what the difference was between town land and conservation land. He stated it looks like the select board has a say on town owned land and the con com has say on conservation land. Caisse stated there was a warrant article that gave the conservation committee control of the town forest. Ben said it is not listed on the website. Caisse noted we will take a look at the website and get it updated. Fisk also asked how people can get permission to farm on the land. Radcliffe stated that each conservation easement has their own rules. Ben also asked about his 51 taps and why he cannot keep them in the town forest. Further discussion was had on the conservation committee's vote to not renew Ben's contract, and it was noted that Ben could keep his taps there until the end of the 2021 season. Ben stated he misunderstood the letter and thought he had to remove them now. Ben also noted the town should encourage farming on town land not just hiking. Caisse reminded Fisk that there were a lot of open spots on committees should he wish to join one. Hastings added that the contract fees should be paid for this year at least.*

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- **Discuss Town Meeting Date:** Bruce Kullgren stated his understanding is that the other 8 towns that make up the Conval school district will be voting on the school ballot and the election of officers on March 9<sup>th</sup> and that all are postponing the business portion of town meeting. He mentioned that the school has also offered its gym to any town that wants to use it and noted that both himself and the town clerk Joyce Kullgren, were ok with March 9<sup>th</sup> voting stating they have already successfully held elections in November and felt good with the PPE and the procedures which were safe. Joyce noted that having the business portion of the meeting in May outside would be safer. John Kieleley added that from an EMD perspective he did not see any advantage to Temple having their elections in March and sees no issues with Conval since their fiscal year is July 1<sup>st</sup>. Cromwell added she read the Conval articles of agreement and there is nothing in them indicating you have to vote at a specific time.
- Caisse noted the select board had received many emails and calls from residents asking to postpone town meeting from March to a variety of dates from April to July. Bruce Kullgren noted that the select board should contact legal first thing in the morning to make sure we can postpone the school ballot voting or not. He also noted that if they have to vote for the school on March 9<sup>th</sup> then it only makes sense to do all the voting then. Connie Kieleley added that a more deadly strain of the virus is coming and she knows many people who are opposed to having town meeting in March. There is no gain in doing that she added.
- The conversation continued with participants asking that the select board delay town meeting stating their fears and recommendations. Several added that if it ultimately does not matter when we vote on the school warrant, then there is no reason to vote on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Separating the voting dates would be confusing and may put residents at risk noted Cromwell. John Kieleley urged the select board to postpone town meeting until July when more people will be safer and more comfortable to attend. The Tax Collector noted that election workers and residents take vacations in July. The moderator agreed and felt that June was a good compromise. After final discussion and hearing all comments, Ezell made a motion to postpone Temple's town meetings and ballot voting until the month of June. He noted we will be working off of our current budget. Willard seconded the motion, roll call vote was unanimous in favor. Connie Kieleley asked if the select board will be sending out a new list of dates for everything like signing up for elections, hearings etc. Ezell said the order does indicate what dates are needed and they will work on getting that out.
- Caisse stated that after the Police board meeting last night, in Greenville's warrants, they have to recommend the purchase of a new police cruiser which is on an 8 year rotation plan and it is now the 8<sup>th</sup> year. Caisse recommended a new cruiser for the warrant. Ezell seconded, roll call vote was unanimous in favor.
- Ezell mentioned that the town land use committee wanted to know what we are going to do. Caisse said as far as their warrant, he thinks the delay gives them time to do forums and get the word out and more time to actually look at the plans and make a decision. Willard commented he likes the CIP's version of the warrant article as written. The board assistant asked if the town report deadlines can be pushed out. Caisse suggested a month delay on the deadlines. Ezell said this also pushes out

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*the budget hearing which will need to be rescheduled. Caisse asked Fiske if he is ok with the CIP warrant article and can he do some forums. Fiske stated he is good with it.*

- *Bruce Kullgren said the select board should contact legal and let Kimberly Saunders from Conval know ASAP what decisions have been made tonight. Ezell said he will talk with legal.*
- *Connie asked if they are going to approve the CIP warrant article, then what about the other warrant articles the committee put up? Are they going to discuss those too? Caisse said they have time and will discuss them later.*
- **Meeting Adjourned:** 7:06 PM. Motion by Ezell, second by Caisse, roll call vote Ezell yes, Willard yes, Caisse yes.

**Next Select Board Meeting:** Friday February 5, 2021 at 6:30 PM with the Broadband Committee. Next regular select board meeting is Tuesday February 9, 2021 6:30. Remote numbers will be provided in the event we are still handling meetings remotely. Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Carole Singelais