

**Town of Boscawen**  
**Select Board**  
Final Minutes  
Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:00pm

In attendance: Ed Cherian, Lorrie Carey, Paul Dickey, Alan Hardy, Kellee Easler, Katie Phelps, Tama Tillman, Gary Tillman, Dean Hollins, Tim Kenney, Kevin Wyman, Kearsten O'Brien, Barbara Randall, and Nicole Hoyt.

Excused: Sarah Gerlack and Mark Varney.

This meeting is being held under a Declaration of Emergency by the Governor and by the Board. Under RSA 91-A: 2, III (b) the requirement of a physical quorum is waived and this meeting is being held entirely remotely, and is being recorded.

**Chairman Cherian motioned to approve the consent agenda and authorize Town Administrator Hardy to sign on behalf of the Select Board. Seconded by Selectman Dickey. All in favor.**

**New Business:**

Finance Director Katie Phelps presented the Select Board with three donations for the Boscawen Roundabout Project for acceptance. The first was a \$1,000 donation from Huckleberry Propane and Oil, the second one was a \$100 donation from Nan and Kevin O'Neill, and lastly a \$250.00 donation from Alan and Pamela Hardy.

**Selectman Dickey motioned to accept the \$1,350 in donations for the Boscawen Roundabout project. Seconded by Chairman Cherian. All in favor.**

Finance Director Phelps presented the COVID-19 Relief Election Form. She said that Benefit Advantage is looking to see if the Select Board would like to extend the FSA benefits for a longer period of time. Currently the Town is at two and half months and it would extend to twelve months for each year and would be unlimited carry over. Chairman Cherian clarified that typically the money is a use or lose scenario with a three month overlap. This would be allowing a waiver because of the current COVID-19 situation. Finance Director Phelps said yes. Chairman Cherian and Selectwoman Carey stated they feel they should support the wavier. Finance Director Phelps asked the Select Board if they would only support it for the 2021 year or for both 2021 and 2022.

**Selectwoman Carey motioned to extend the FSA benefits until 2022 and authorize Town Administrator Hardy to use the signature stamp on behalf of the Select Board. Seconded by Selectman Dickey. All in favor.**

Town Clerk Nicole Hoyt presented a petition for a pole license to the Select Board. The pole license is for new utility pole installations. Until to erect and maintain poles and structures with wires, cables, underground conduits, anchors, and devices thereon across the Town of Boscawen. The license fee is \$10.00. If the Select Board is in agreement they will need to sign the petition.

**Selectman Dickey motioned to agree to the petition for a pole license for Unitil, Pole 37/170A**

**Town of Boscawen**  
**Select Board**  
Final Minutes  
Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:00pm

**and authorize Town Administrator Hardy to use the signature stamp on behalf of the Select Board. Seconded by Selectwoman Carey. All in favor.**

**Department Head Updates:**

Police Chief Kevin Wyman updated the Select Board that Officer Chislett and Officer Saint finished the drug training course and that Officer Saint is now fully certified. Chief Wyman will be submitting the certification to the grant company for reimbursement of \$4,000.

Fire Chief Tim Kenney updated the Select Board that the call volume has been up and not related to EMS. He informed the Select Board that Town Administrator Hardy and himself will be meeting sometime next week with Herriman to review the initial draft and cost estimate for the Fire Station. Fire Chief Kenney said they have added a new member to the Fire Department who is already certified. Selectwoman Carey asked with the addition of the new member of the department if they were fully staffed. Fire Chief Kenney said yes they are staffed with twenty four people. Two of the spots are being held for High school interns for when they turn eighteen.

Public Works Director Dean Hollins updated the Select Board that the Public Works Department has had a couple of snow related break downs. They are currently having a hard time getting parts for the snow plows.

Planning and Community Development Director Kellee Easler said the Planning and Community Development Department has been working with Central New Hampshire Regional Planning and will be getting ready for a Technical Review Committee meeting. She said that she and Planning and Community Development Assistant Kearsten O'Brien will be going to 20 High Street with a Police escort to meet the gentleman who will be giving the estimate for the removal of cars and materials. Lieutenant Killary will be going over tomorrow to do VIN verification of the cars. The owner is continuing to refuse to get the town the titles for the vehicles.

Town Clerk Hoyt informed the Select Board that the Town report is currently at the printers and will be back by the end of next week or the beginning of the following week. She said that she and Deputy Tax Collector Sarah Gerlack sent out certified mailers for liening and deeding of properties.

**Other Business:**

Chairman Cherian informed members of the Public that the Town will hold its first Candidate Forum on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 6:00pm to allow residents of Boscawen to ask questions of the two candidate's running for Select Board.

Chairman Cherian asked Selectman Dickey about the stipend for his cell phone bill. Selectman Dickey said when he was elected to the Select Board he had asked for the use of a Town cell phone and was informed there were no more available lines for a cell phone. He received a stipend for

**Town of Boscawen**  
**Select Board**  
Final Minutes  
Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:00pm

his cell phone for the portion that was for Town use. Town Administrator Hardy explained to the Select Board that the stipend was covered through the executive telephone budget. Chairman Cherian said that if Selectman Dickey asked for a Town cell phone and we could not give it to him because the Town was maxed out on phone lines and it was too expensive to add another one, that he does not have an issue with the reimbursement. Town Administrator Hardy is working with Verizon to have two contracts one for the Police Department and one for the Town Office. Selectwoman Carey said she does not believe that we should be using private phones for public business because if there were any issue to arise the phones could be confiscated for litigation. She stated that it is an obligation of the Town to provide the phones for business use to Town Employees and Volunteers. Town Administrator Hardy said once he has a new Verizon Representative he will get back to the Select Board on the subject. Selectwoman Carey said moving forward they should honor the stipend because it was offered to Selectman Dickey.

Caroletta Alicea came before the Select Board to inform the Select Board that the Democratic Party is taking the Republican Party to court referencing changing the way they go to sessions. They will be holding sessions February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25, 2021. The sessions currently are not ADA compliant and some of the members will be attending without masks. Court will be held tomorrow at 10:30 AM. Ms. Alicea wanted to ask the Select Board on their thoughts about her attending the sessions. She said she has mixed emotions because of the fact it is not ADA complaint and some will not be wearing masks. Chairman Cherian said it is unfortunate that the parties are going through this issue. He stated he understands her concerns. Selectman Dickey said he does not blame her for feeling uncomfortable and it is ultimately her decision if she decides to attend the sessions. Selectwoman Carey agreed with her fellow Select Board members.

**Chairman Cherian made a motion to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A:3, II(d). Selectwoman Carey seconded. All in favor.**

**Chairman Cherian made a motion to come out of nonpublic RSA 91-A:3, II(d). Seconded by Selectwoman Carey. All in favor.**

**Chairman Cherian motioned to seal nonpublic minutes RSA 91-A:3 II (d). Seconded by Selectman Dickey. All in favor.**

**Chairman Cherian made a motion to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A:3, II(b). Selectman Dickey seconded. All in favor.**

**Chairman Cherian made a motion to come out of nonpublic RSA 91-A:3, II(b). Seconded by Selectman Dickey. All in favor.**

**Chairman Cherian made a motion to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A:3, II(c). Selectwoman Carey seconded. All in favor.**

**Chairman Cherian made a motion to come out of nonpublic RSA 91-A:3, II(c). Seconded by**

**Town of Boscawen**  
**Select Board**  
Final Minutes  
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**Selectwoman Carey. All in favor.**

**Motion made by Chairman Cherian to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Dickey. All in favor.**

Respectfully submitted by Kearsten O'Brien