

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 21, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Luszey the meeting of July 21, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Richard Maddox.

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Ted Luszey, Pat Nichols, Marilyn McGrath

Absent: Angela Saucier, Roger Coutu

Staff/Others: Donna Graham, Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Luszey asked if anyone in the audience wish to address the Board on any issue which the Board has control of at this time. Please state your name for the record.

Paul Inderbitzen 2 Timothy Lane. I'm the Town Moderator. I just want to let you know when I heard about this meeting that I did talk to the Secretary of State's office and their reading is almost as what our attorney had advised in terms of the word "shall" and they also felt that they also think some towns are using it differently. They are using it for some elections the alternate and not for others. They're going to look into it. They also think that the towns ought to have more flexibility so we may get some support from the Secretary of State's Office to make some changes in that Section 10 of the RSA that says once you do an alternate location you're stuck for all your elections. At least State elections. I'm thinking that's not the way I've heard bigger towns do it. Even small towns need multiple places when they get big turnouts. Dave Scanlon said he was going to look into it and he said maybe it's something we need to make some changes to so that you have more flexibility. So that may come down the line but I understand what you're doing now.

Selectman McGrath asked would you suggest that we go ahead with the Deliberative Session to at least get the sense of the voters about whether or not they want two polling places and then if the Secretary of State comes back and they say that we're not held to having two polling places for every election from now until the end of time but that we can do it for Presidential Elections or those large volume types of elections.

Mr. Inderbitzen said the indication that I got was oh this is going to need to be changed. I think once you post if you posted a warrant, you're stuck going through the process of taking it to a vote. If that's the case then the way the Town Attorney advice is then you are going to have to have multiple locations - two locations for every State election including this next Primary in September. We have like a 3,000 people turnout. That's been the history of State Primaries. That doesn't make sense. I really think that probably better to wait and see if they can straighten that out and get us a clearer definition that says you have the option or once you pass this you don't have an option. To me it's not clear. I thought it was flexible but apparently they don't think it is.

Selectman McGrath asked so you don't think that we should go forward at this point with a Deliberative Session. Paul Inderbitzen said probably not at this time not with too much up in the air.

Selectman Nichols said I was also thinking of if it goes to two places, or three, or whatever, you would need more people which means money. You would need more polling things - money. So I don't know if we're up to that. We have contingency funds but I don't want to see them spent. I want them for an emergency. If we have heavy snow or if we have a water main break, I'd like to see the money go there. We have other things to spend money on than the election. I don't know if you want to go to one building - a bigger building with more parking. Can you do that? Mr. Inderbitzen said that's what the committee meeting tonight will look at. We're going to look at facilities and see what's available and what seems to be reasonable. Selectman Nichols indicated if you can get one building that has more parking. Mr. Inderbitzen said if we split, we would split the people too. We would take half the voters that go to the Community Center and send them someplace else so I would take half my ballot workers and put them - there would be some increase in terms of space rental if we needed it and maybe a few extra people but I don't think it would be an expensive project just to do two places.

Selectman Nichols asked would that be if you went to two places. Would that have to be divided like say half the town and half the town or would it be areas? One of my places I was at a number and we had to go there to a fire house. It was to light it up to a lot of places.

Paul Inderbitzen said that would be the Selectmen's job to determine which parts of town go to different election. Even if it was two, it would have to make up a district. Under the law, they have the right to adjust that periodically if you get a big development and the people shift over time, they can change the districts. The way it's worded right now I think if you say we want an alternate location, you're stuck with an alternate location for every State election. That didn't make sense. I didn't read it that way and that's why I was quite surprised when the Town Attorney's opinion said that word "shall" means something.

Chairman Luszey said to bring this all into context. Folks that are watching they're probably wondering what we're really talking about here. Back on May 10th, we made a motion to request that we actually put a warrant on the Primary that's coming up to ask the voters whether or not we should create multiple polling places for large elections like the ones that coming up in November. We were of the opinion at that time based on a memo from the Secretary of State's Office that we needed to ask the voters and if the voters granted us that right, we would be able to turn on a switch that says for a large election or for an election that we think is going to have a large turnout, we could have multiple locations and then go back to the single for our annual elections. So the Board actually made that motion and it was accepted. After that motion was made, we did request our Attorney to look at the warrant and make sure that everything we were doing was proper. He came back with an opinion that said if we do this special warrant and it is approved, we would be stuck with creating multiple locations that we would not have that option to turn it on and off like we thought we would have. That brought us to today where we believe that given the majority of the times - once every four years - we have this spike but other than that the location is very well suited for handling the number of voter turnout that we would not want to create the added expense of creating dual voting locations. That's kind of where we are at today and if everyone is in agreement with that, I would entertain a motion.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion to reconsider the following motion made at the May 10th meeting:

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman McGrath, that the Board of Selectmen hold a special election in September and request the voters to approve or deny a second polling place, carried 4-1. Selectman Coutu in opposition.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to rescind the Board of Selectmen's vote on May 10, 2016 to hold a special election in September and request the voters to approve or deny a second polling place, carried 3-0.

6. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman McGrath - A couple of weeks ago when we were here I made a motion to authorize the Police Chief to send two officers to the Dallas area for the funerals of the five officers that were slain. Sadly we've had another event such as that. I believe it was four officers that were shot. Three have been killed and one is in very grave condition and likely not to survive. I'd like to authorize the Police Department in Chief Lavoie's, Captain DiNapoli and Captain Avery to authorize two police officers to attend the funerals of the officers that were slain in Baton Rouge. My reason for this is I certainly don't expect that we're going to do this every time there's a tragedy that happens. These are monumental tragedies. They're extraordinarily devastating events for the families, the friends, and the community that they serve. I think that as part of the American community, I think that it's important that we allow our officers to attend those services. I've asked the Finance Director Ms. Carpentier to determine what the cost would be for the taxpayers to send these officers to these funerals. That cost would be a \$.30 impact to each of the taxpayers in Hudson based on the travel expenses. I talked Captain DiNapoli earlier today. In determining what the costs would be, they called - I'm not going to identify the airline because I think that they would want to keep it low key but one of the airlines is going to give them free airfare to attend these services. The cost for the officers and

the - he included airfare but it's since changed so that number isn't included in this. It would be about \$1,500.

Chairman Luszey said that \$.30 cannot be correct. That's over a half a million dollars. Selectman McGrath noted not on the tax rate - per household. An average household it would be \$.30. This is what she's written in the memo that she's provided. "If you spent \$25,000 in additional costs, the average taxpayer would have to pay \$3.00 in annual taxes." That's provided it's a recurring cost. This is not a recurring cost. This is a one-time in this case two-time event so it would be a \$.30 impact to each single-family household. I think we're not talking about \$100,000 for paving. We're not talking about \$700,000 to bring in utilities. We're talking about \$.30 and it's a one-time cost. I'm comfortable with that and comfortable with authorizing two of our officers to attend those funerals.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Nichols, that we authorize the Police Department to send two of its officers to attend the funerals in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, carried 3-0.

Selectman Nichols - Nothing.

Selectman Luszey - I'm all set.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 4:13 p.m. by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Nichols, carried 3-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

Ted Luszey, Chairman

Marilyn McGrath, Vice-Chairman

Pat Nichols, Selectman