



Town of Barrington
Board of Selectmen
PO Box 660
333 Calef Highway
Barrington, NH 03825

RESOLUTION

WHERE AS, the Town of Barrington had the 2017 Town Meeting voting session scheduled for March 14th, 2017 from 8 AM to 7 PM at the Middle School, 51 Haley Drive, Barrington, New Hampshire in accordance with the provisions of RSA 40:13.

On March 13th, 2017 at 8:02 AM the New Hampshire Bureau of Homeland Security and Emergency Management provided a bulletin from the National Weather Service. The NWS issued a winter storm warning for all of New Hampshire warning of "Major Winter Storm". The prediction of the NWS was for 12-18 inches with 1-4 inches per hour possible. Blizzard conditions were possible with gusts of wind from 30-40 mph. Governor Chris Sununu warned citizens not to travel on the roadways unless it was absolutely necessary. State offices and liquor stores were closed in anticipation of the winter storm.

On March 13, 2017 at approximately 2:30 PM Town Moderator Stan Swier after consulting with the Fire Chief and Road Agent and School Facilities manager, Paul Sanders, who indicated it would be hard to keep roads, parking areas and the school entrances safe, determined the forecasted weather presented an un-necessary risk to the safety of voters who would need to travel to the polls to vote. In making this decision the moderator received information from the conference call with Governor Sununu who said he was unsure of his authority to prevent a town from cancelling the election as well as the opinions of the attorneys for the New Hampshire Municipal Association and Town Counsel Attorney Jae Whitelaw that the moderator did have authority to postpone the voting day pursuant to RSA 40:4 II.

II. In the event a weather emergency occurs on or before the date of a deliberative session or voting day of a meeting in a town, which the moderator reasonably believes may cause the roads to be hazardous or unsafe, the moderator may, up to 2 hours prior to the scheduled session, postpone and reschedule the deliberative session or voting day of the meeting to another reasonable date, place, and time certain. ...

The moderator postponed the voting day from March 14th, 2017 to March 21st, 2017. The voting times and the location remained the same. The notice was posted on the Town Clerk's answering machine, on the Town Clerk's webpage, at the Town Clerk's office, and at the voting place, the Barrington Middle School on March 13. The information was also listed on the WMUR television station.

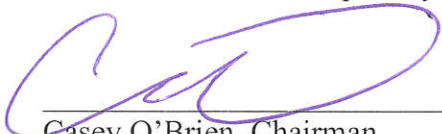
The Town Clerk's office was opened from 8-11AM on March 14.

THEREFORE, the moderator acted within his authority. Further, he acted in the best interest of the voters by postponing the voting session of Town Meeting in the interest of public safety. The safety of the citizens of this Town is of the foremost concern to its officials. The decision to postpone ensured the safety of citizens and allowed for the processes of democracy to occur without unduly infringing upon the right to vote.

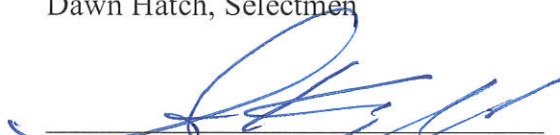
The advice provided by the New Hampshire Municipal Association and Town Counsel is in accordance with the law. The interpretation of the law in this case is in the finest traditions of the legal profession. The NHMA has demonstrated its role of providing training, assistance, guidance and advocacy on behalf of local government in this state with the high degree of professionalism that we have come to expect.

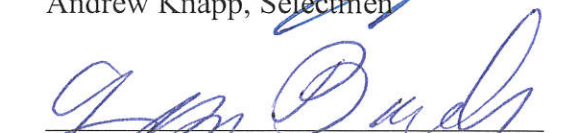
After a properly noticed public hearing on this date in accordance with the provisions of HB 329 (Chapter 20) which was passed into law on April 21st, 2017 we do hereby legalize, ratify and confirm the 2017 Town Meeting and all actions taken by the legislative body by vote of the people on March 21st, 2017.


The resolution was adopted by the Board of Selectmen on May 8th, 2017



Casey O'Brien, Chairman

Dawn Hatch, Selectmen

Andrew Knapp, Selectmen

George Bailey, Selectmen

Dan Ayer, Selectmen