

## Strafford Joint Selectboard and School Board Special Meeting Minutes

December 28, 2020, 6:00 pm via Zoom

Selectboard members participating: Toni Pippy, Pat Kelly, Rett Emerson, Mary Linehan, Brent Cadwell

School Board Members participating: Glenn Wylie, Meagan Teachout, Aaron Dottir, Micaela Tucker

Others participating: Kate Reimanis, Katrina DeCoff-Webster, Anne Peyton, Elysabeth Ray, Christa Wurm

Selectboard meeting called to order at 6:05 pm

Presentation given by Selectboard re: Australian ballot process and requirements, based on guidance from VLCT. Adoption of the Australian ballot is not required, but if the town decides to do an in-person floor meeting, all COVID precautions will be required. Holding a remote (zoom) meeting is not permitted.

### Timeline for Australian ballot process:

<b>Date/Deadline</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Jan 14</b>	<b>Deadline for petition for articles</b>	
<b>Jan 25</b>	<b>Candidates for elected office must submit a consent form.</b>	Waiver may be granted from Director of Elections if we cannot meet this deadline
<b>Feb 10</b>	<b>Ballot must be finalized.</b>	We can print our ballot in-house if we do a hand count of the votes at the end of the meeting. Currently towns are not permitted to mail the ballot to all voters but are encouraged to make a big effort to let voters know to request an absentee ballot, and to vote before March 2, to reduce the number of people congregating to vote.
<b>On or around Feb 15</b>	<b>Post warning for the information meeting</b>	Must warn 10 days before the Information Meeting
<b>On or around Feb 24</b>	<b>Hold the Information Meeting</b>	Must be held within 10 days of Town Meeting day. This meeting is to present

		and allow discussion of the articles and is hosted by the Selectboard. No voting takes place and no changes to articles are permitted. This meeting can be held remotely (zoom).
<b>March 2</b>	<b>Town Meeting</b>	In-person polling places are required on the meeting date and conducted in compliance with COVID restrictions.

There is a possibility that the VT legislature will a) allow flexibility for the date of the Town Meeting (we could possibly delay a few weeks) and b) allow Towns to mail out ballots to voters. But this decision will not be made till mid-January. The Selectboard prefers to maintain the March 2, 2021 Town Meeting date.

Motion passed by the Selectboard to adopt the Australian ballot for the 2021 Annual Town meeting.

The Selectboard has selected 2 board members to work with the Town Clerk to finalize the details of the timeline and other meeting preparations. A School Board representative is invited to join this effort.

School Board meeting called to order at 6:27.

Motion passed by the School Board to adopt the Australia ballot to elect School Board members and to approve the School Director's budget for the 2021-22 school year.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan  
Reporting Clerk