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**PRESENT:** L. M. Smith, Chairman; J. E. Ziolkowski, Vice Chairman; R. P. McDermott, Selectman; L.A. Ruest, Town Administrator; S. H. Ayer, Secretary; J.P. Pontbriand, Town Moderator

**EMERGENCY MEETING OF SELECTMEN: SEVERE WEATHER AND TOWN ELECTION:**  
The Chairman brought the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. The Moderator was asked to speak to the issue of an impending major storm forecast for all day on Tuesday and possible postponement of the Town election.

J. P. Pontbriand said that looking at various weather sources, the severe winter storm warning is in effect for all of Tuesday and suggests that the storm will end early in the day on Wednesday. For this reason he said his inclination is to postpone the election.

The Town Clerk and her staff, having been in touch with the Secretary of State's office, said that State RSAs indicate the election "shall" take place on the second Tuesday in March. Several calls to the Secretary of State's office confirmed this.

The Moderator said that the election day is not being changed, that the election is deemed to be held on the second Tuesday of March even if delayed. It was agreed that this is a public safety issue above all else.

Resident Tim Samway said that as of this morning, 20 Towns have postponed elections. He read from an email from Attorney Stephen Buckley of the NH Municipal Association which cites RSA 40:4, II: "That statute clearly says that the moderator may postpone and reschedule the deliberative session or voting day to another reasonable date, place and time in the event the moderator reasonably believes the roads are hazardous and unsafe due to a weather emergency. Provided, however, the moderator must make that determination to postpone and reschedule up to 2 hours prior to the scheduled session."

As to absentee votes, S. Buckley wrote that in the "new date, time and place for the voting day established by the moderator after the original voting day is postponed becomes the new election day. As provided in RSA 657:22, completed absentee ballots must be received by the town clerk by 5:00 PM on election day in order to be received and counted."

Input was asked of the Winter Road Maintenance Contractor (WRM), Road Agent, Police Chief and Fire Chief.

J. Ziolkowski stepped down from his seat to speak as WRM contractor. He said that from his perspective, the election should not take place on Tuesday due to safety concerns; the forecast includes continuing snow showers and wind on Wednesday, and clean-up will take time.

Chief Dirsra said that he would not want people to be out in the slush and snow before clean up can be completed. His opinion was that the election should be postponed until Thursday. The Road Agent agreed that Thursday is a practical choice. Fire Inspector Jon True, representing the Fire Department, was in agreement.

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The Moderator confirmed the availability of election personnel. He said that he is awaiting more precise guidance from the State, but that reason dictates there must be a provision for emergencies, and said he is postponing the election until Thursday.

L. Smith asked for the consensus of the Board, and all agreed the election should be moved, preferably to Thursday, safety being the most important consideration.

Discussion continued on topics of notification, which will include signage, a Town website News and Announcements posting and an email to Subscribers to News and Announcements. Separate notification will be issued through Public Safety News, WMUR and others. J. P. Pontbriand will notify the Schools via the School Board Chairmen. Private citizens may decide to forward the Town's notice information to others.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**MOTION:** To close the Town Hall on Tuesday, March 14 due to severe winter weather.

**MOTION:** L. Smith

**SECOND:** R. McDermott

**UNANIMOUS**

Asked if she could open her office on Wednesday instead of Tuesday, the Town Clerk said she will check to see if she can get special permission for this from the state, and will also check to see if absentee ballots can be mailed on Wednesday now that voting is postponed until Thursday.

**MOTION:** To adjourn at 10:03 AM.

**MOTION:** L. Smith

**SECOND:** R. McDermott

**UNANIMOUS**