

MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S EMERGENCY MEETING
December 18, 2023

The Campton Board of Selectmen met at 3:00 pm via VIA Zoom and in person on Monday, December 18, 2023. Per NH RSA 91-A:2, III (b). Selectmen Sharon Davis, Craig Engel, Dan Boynton, Mort Donahue, and Nik Coates were present. Also present were Campton Town Administrator Corey Davenport, Planning and Zoning Coordinator/ Recorder Jade Hartsgrove, Police Chief Kevin Foss, Fire Chief Dan Defosses, Campton School Principal Dave Hamnet, Regional Public Health Coordinator Angel Ekstrom, and Road Agent Ronald Farnsworth.

Per NH RSA 91-A:2, II, an emergency meeting of the Select Board can be called when an emergency is determined by the Chair or presiding officer of the Select Board. Select Board Chair Sharon Davis determined an emergency meeting was needed to address the flooding concerns as well as the washing out of several Town roads.

Citation: *An emergency shall mean a situation where immediate undelayed action is deemed to be imperative by the chairman or presiding officer of the public body, who shall post a notice of the time and place of such meeting as soon as practicable, and shall employ whatever further means are reasonably available to inform the public that a meeting is to be held. The minutes of the meeting shall clearly spell out the need for the emergency meeting.*

Per NH RSA 91-A:2, III (b), the Select Board can call an emergency meeting without a quorum being physically present in one location. Due to the status of the flooding emergency and the need for immediate action, Select Board Chair Sharon Davis determined that a meeting of the Select Board via Zoom and in person was appropriate.

Citation: *(b) Except in an emergency, a quorum of the public body shall be physically present at the location specified in the meeting notice as the location of the meeting. For purposes of this subparagraph, an "emergency" means that immediate action is imperative and the physical presence of a quorum is not reasonably practical within the period of time requiring action. The determination that an emergency exists shall be made by the chairman or presiding officer of the public body, and the facts upon which that determination is based shall be included in the minutes of the meeting.*

Call to Order: Vice Chair Nik Coates, who attended the meeting in person, called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm as Board Chair Davis was attending via Zoom. There were several members of the public present via zoom.

Establish Quorum: The Selectmen did a roll call vote to determine a quorum. All Selectmen were present Selectman Coates, Selectman Donahue, and Selectman Engel were in person. Selectman Boynton and Chair Davis were on via Zoom.

Status Update

The Board started the meeting by asking the Road Agent about the road status update.

Road Agent Ron Farnsworth: Ron told the Board that they had been working in several areas in Town. The Road Crew had just finished stabilizing Eastern Corner Road to ensure that no one would be cut off due to the excessive rain. Ron indicated that other roads needed to be addressed as several areas were washing out, causing roads to become impassable. The Board asked Ron what he needed and he told them more material, but the pits were closing soon. Ron was concerned about the overall cost, but the Board told him not to worry about the cost when we are in this emergency. Ron thanked the Board and said they would continue to work on and monitor the roads.

Fire Chief Defosses: Chief Defosses told the Board that the Campton Dam was operating as it was designed. The New Hampshire Dam Bureau had come up, inspected the situation, and monitored the water levels. The last update was that the water levels near the dam had gone down some. We anticipated more rain in the forecast, but this was welcome news. The Fire Chief confirmed that the dam has not and is not failing. Chief Defosses told the Board that other departments in the area are currently manning the main and lower stations.

Police Chief Foss: Chief Foss told the Board that his officers were monitoring the road conditions and providing traffic control. He mentioned that NH RT 175 past the Dole Mill has been flooded in various stages. They were putting out cones and, eventually, closure signs on that section of NH RT 175. He also had the Police Facebook page reposting emergency updates and Town updates to increase communication with the public.

Selectman Boynton: Selectman Boynton provided updates about the situation at the emergency shelter. At the time, he mentioned that there were only about ten people, roughly four families with children, at the shelter. Selectman Boynton said the school provided snacks and drinks for the families as the Red Cross had not yet arrived. Dave Hamnett, Campton School Principal, was on hand to let the Board know how the resources were being handled. He mentioned that they could not provide full meals to the individuals and would need some help from the Town or the Red Cross. The Board agreed that due to the small number of people, they would arrange for pizza to be brought to the shelter around 5:00 or 5:30 pm. Angel Ekstrom was on the call as well to give guidance on the situation. She said she could provide cots to sleep on if the Board kept the displaced families overnight. The Board asked the Fire Chief if he thought that the situation would warrant keeping the shelter open overnight. Chief Defosses said that because the water was receding, he felt that the shelter could be closed around 7:00 pm. The Board agreed that so long as the water levels continued to go down, they would close the shelter at 7. If the shelter were closed, the Board would encourage the families to return to their homes or seek alternate housing for the night. The Board agreed that the families could stay at the Best Western in Campton if no accommodations could be found. The Town could help cover the cost of the hotel rooms for the night.

Communications Plan

The Board agreed that the Town would continue to use social media and website blasts to disseminate information as it becomes available. Corey and Jade would be responsible for putting out those communications.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chair Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded with a roll call vote: Chair Davis-aye, Selectman Coates- aye, Selectman Donahue-aye, Selectman Boynton-aye, Selectman Engel-aye; the meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jade Hartsgrove
Planning & Zoning Coordinator