

BY-LAWS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Deering, NEW HAMPSHIRE

A. **PURPOSE:**

These By-Laws describe the duties and methods of operation of the Deering Board of Selectmen.

B. **AUTHORITY:**

The Board of Selectmen is an elected Board and derives its authority from NH RSA 41:8-15, other RSA's and Town of Deering Ordinances policies.

C. **ORGANIZATION:**

1. **Responsibilities of Members:**

- a. All members shall make every effort to attend each scheduled meeting.
- b. Members of the Board have authority only when acting as a Board legally in session. The Board shall not be bound by any action or statement of any individual Board member except when such statement or action is pursuant to instructions from the Board.
- c. Members are expected to sign various paperwork (including payroll manifests, etc.) in a timely manner, unless impending absence has been noted and the Town Administrator notified. The signing of this paperwork may either be performed via physical means or by electronic document signature. All such signatures shall be in conformance with State Law.

2. **Officers:**

- a. Election – A Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected at the first regularly scheduled meeting following the swearing in of members elected at the annual Town Meeting. Election shall be a majority vote of those present.
- b. Board of Selectmen vacancies created during the year shall be filled within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of the vacancy. Such vacancies shall be filled via appointment of the Board of Selectmen by the remaining Board members. The Chairman, or majority of the Board will issue a call for candidates, set the parameters for the applications, and schedule a public meeting for the purpose of making the appointment. All such appointments and related timing will adhere to the then current New Hampshire State Law.
- c. Duties – The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board and perform all duties required by law.

**D. OPERATION:**

**1. Meetings:**

- a. Organizational Meetings – The Board may adopt the previous Board’s policies and procedures, subject to amendment as provided in these by-laws.
- b. Regular Meetings – A more formalized meeting of the Board generally conducted in accordance with the order of the “Agenda” contained herein. These meetings will generally be held at Town Hall. The Board shall establish a schedule for meetings. All meetings will be held in accordance with RSA 91-A. The majority of the Board may allow, but is not required to allow, public input and/or participation during discussion of the Board at time other than public hearing or public comment. This will be limited to invited comments pertinent to the topic at hand.
- c. Workshop Meetings – A less formalized meeting of the Board generally conducted for the purpose of providing Board members with a more detailed understanding of a limited number of issues or to permit discussion of issues in greater depth and not intended to make motions or decisions. These meeting public comment will not be allowed and generally will not be recorded; either can be overruled by a majority of the Board.
- d. Non-Public Meetings – A meeting of the Board held for Town legal and personnel issues in accordance with RSA 91-A:3. There are a few specific situations where the Board of Selectmen is permitted under law to conduct official business without posting notice of a meeting or taking minutes as set forth in RSA 91-A:2,I. These nonmeetings may be held during the course of a non-public session or at any other time that is convenient to the participants. The scheduling of any such meeting will be managed by the Chairman.
- e. Special Meetings – May be called by the Chairman in accordance with RSA 91-A:2,II; upon agreement of two (2) members of the Board; or at the request of the Town Administrator through the Chair. The Chairman shall notify each member in accordance with RSA 91-A:2, II.

**2. Schedule of Meetings:**

Each meeting shall be posted in accordance with RSA 91-A

**3. Town Administrator:**

- a. Annually, the Board of Selectmen is responsible for evaluating the job performance of the Town Administrator. It is the Chairman’s responsibility to coordinate the evaluation. The majority of the Board

will complete a comprehensive draft of the evaluation. The current seated Board of Selectmen must complete the final evaluation document prior to the next annual election. The final evaluation document shall remain on file in the Town Administrators office with personnel files.

b. The Town Administrator may take part in the Select Board's discussion on all matters on the agenda, and all matters concerning the welfare of the Town. In the event that the Town Administrator is unable to attend a Select Board meeting, the Town Administrator may appoint another qualified person to attend the meeting.

**E. RULES OF ORDER:**

**1. Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of two (2) members of the Board. In the event that two (2) members are absent from a meeting, no official meeting can take place and therefore no decisions can be made.

**2. Remote Participation in Meetings**

The provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III shall apply to the remote participation of a Selectmen at a public meeting of the Board by telephone or video conference, only upon the consent and majority vote of the remaining members of the Board.

**3. Votes**

It is illegal for the Board of Selectmen to make any decisions by use of a secret ballot or by email or in such way that is contrary to the Right-to-Know Law. At the beginning of the discussion of any topic, a Selectman shall announce the intention to recuse them self and shall take no part in the debate should they feel that to vote would constitute a conflict. A Selectman should disqualify himself/herself whenever he/she has a direct personal or monetary interest in the outcome.

**4. Voting Abstentions**

In the event that a Selectman should voluntarily abstain from voting, such action shall not count towards the tally of a vote for the purpose of determining the majority viewpoint. If more than one Selectman abstains from a vote, no action shall be taken.

**5. Agenda**

The Town Administrator bears the primary responsibility for coordinating and planning the Agenda. The Chairman has the final authority over the final approved agenda, timing, schedules and related matters. The Agenda shall be published with meeting notice and include in the minutes.

- a. Selectmen and citizens wishing to place an item on the agenda must submit a request to the Town Administrator or the Chairman.
- b. Adjournment – A motion for adjournment will usually not be in order until after the completion of the order of business, unless a motion has been made at the start of the meeting to adjourn at a specified time.

#### **6. Role of the Chairman:**

The Chairman's duties are as follows:

- To open the session at the time at which the Board is to meet by calling the members to order.
- To recognize members entitled to the floor.
- To state and put to vote all the questions which are regularly called or necessarily arise during the proceedings and to announce the result of the vote
- To assist in expediting all business in every way compatible with the rights of the members, as by allowing brief remarks when un-debatable motions are pending or by calling a brief recess to permit restoration of order or clarification of an obscure point if the Chair thinks it's advisable.
- To authenticate by his/her signature, when necessary, all acts, orders and proceedings as directed by vote of the Board.

The Chairman shall vote as a member of the Board.

Discussions which are not addressing the business before the Board, or which are conducted in a disorderly or disrespectful manner, shall be ruled out of order. The Chairman shall take whatever action is necessary to achieve and maintain order, including ordering the removal of any person who continues disorderly conduct.

#### **7. Conduct of Meetings:**

Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted practices of order and decorum. In the event of dispute regarding procedural matters, Robert Rules of Order shall serve as a guideline with a vote of the Board being the final deciding authority.

### **F. EMPLOYEES:**

#### **1. Duties:**

The Recording Clerk shall be the official recorder of the minutes of the Board of Selectmen and an official copy of the records are to be filed in the Town Hall in accordance with RSA 91:A. In addition to keeping the minutes of the meetings, it is the duty of the Recording Clerk to keep a roll of members and to call the roll when required.

The Recording Clerk shall record the essentials of the proceedings, the name of the member who introduced the main motion or amendment and the name of the second.

**G. LIMITATION ON SELECTMEN'S DUTIES:**

1. The duties and responsibilities of the Board of Selectmen as set forth in these guidelines and as otherwise enumerated under NH State Law, are almost always subject to certain conditions, limitations and exclusions that require further examination to determine the full extent of the Board's authority as it pertains to each specific set of circumstances.
2. The Board of Selectmen has no direct authority over the personnel other than the Town Administrator. The only time the Board of Selectmen has any authority is when a quorum is present.
3. The Board of Selectmen will follow the Chain of Command chart found in the personnel policy.

**H. AMENDMENT PROCEDURE:**

A copy of any amendment shall be certified and submitted to the Town Clerk for inclusion in the Town Records.

**I. APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

1. The Chair shall request from members their choices of committees, boards and commissions they wish to serve on as Selectmen's Representative. The Board will collectively decide which member will serve on each board, committee, or commission and appointments will be made.
2. The term of all appointments of Selectmen Representatives, including the terms of any ex-officio member of the Board of Selectmen serving on local boards (Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Budget Committee) shall be for one (1) year, or until next Town Meeting, whichever is sooner.

**J. ANNUAL REVIEWS/ACTIONS:**

As a matter of business and protocol, the Board of Selectmen will execute the following matters on a timely and annual basis.

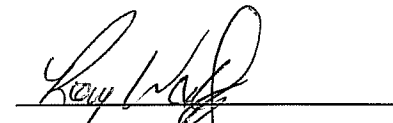
1. Review and reaffirm/dissolve existing committees previously established by the Board of Selectmen (March-May)
2. Set the new Tax Rate for the coming tax year
3. Review and adopt the Annual Capital Improvement Plan
4. Establish Annual Board of Selectmen Goals (May)

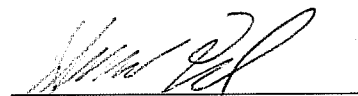
BY-LAWS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Deering, NEW HAMPSHIRE


By-Laws Approved on: 6 Jan 22

  
Chairman Bill Whisman

  
Rebecca Mitchell

  
Roy Watson

  
Town Administrator

  
Town Clerk

January 10, 2022.  
Recorded on