

## STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #: 20-127  
COUNCIL MTG OF: December 15, 2020  
FROM: Dave Caron, Town Administrator  
OFFERED BY: Administration  
PREPARED BY: Administration  
SUBJECT: Polling Location

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### INTRODUCTION

The Council is requested to designate West Running Brook Middle School as the polling location for the March 9, 2021 Town and School Elections.

### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

The Council is encouraged to accept this recommendation and to adopt Resolution #2020-062.

### BACKGROUND

Derry has utilized a number of different polling locations throughout the Town. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and its potential impact on the number of available poll workers, the Council is encouraged to continue supporting the concept of one polling location for the March 2021 Town and School elections and continue to aggressively publicize the availability of absentee ballots. It is recommended that West Running Brook Middle School be designated as the central polling location.

### DISCUSSION

The Town Council is required by Town Charter and NH RSA to establish the polling locations for elections. Under Charter Section 2.5(b) of the Town Charter the Council "shall establish polling places and balloting hours" and under NH RSA 658:9 I "The selectmen of each town and ward shall provide for a suitable place in which to hold state elections and shall see that the same is warmed, lighted, and furnished with proper supplies and conveniences". The Town Clerk's office has reached out to Calvary Bible Church and has been informed that the facility is not available. Contact has been made with the School Superintendent and after consultation with the Chief of Police concerning traffic management, the recommendation of West Running Brook Middle School is presented.

The Town would need to erect a tent to comply with the School District's mask mandate (similar to Pinkerton Academy) and has offered to deep clean the facility after usage, similar to the Town's actions with the September and November elections. It is anticipated that WRB will be in remote learning that day, thus easing any traffic or parking concerns.

### FISCAL IMPACT

There will be no additional fiscal impact with the designation of this location.

### RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL

Please see Resolution #2020-062