

Board of Civil Authority

Minutes
October 18, 2016

The Board of Civil Authority met on Tuesday as warned:

WARNING
Board of Civil Authority
Presidential Elections Preparation
Tuesday, October 18, 2016
At the Town Municipal Building
6:30 pm

PRESENT: David Grundy (chair), Rob Chickering, Janice Aldrich, Tim Carver, Julia Haynes, Rebecca Reed, Florence Morse, Rich Curtis & CJ Flynn

Chair Grundy called the meeting to order at 6:33pm to review issues pertaining to the upcoming General Election on November 8th.

- A. There were 2 Additions to the agenda
 - Omission of Julia Haynes from the upcoming Election ballot
 - Stipend/ Compensation for workers on Election Day
- B. There were no members of the public in attendance.
- C. Discussion Points on the November 8, 2016 General Election

Update on voter checklist

- Newly appointed Town Clerk CJ Flynn updated the board regarding the checklist
- The internal list is currently completely in synch with the state list
- The Absentee ballot mailing and controls lists are also completely in line
- Superfluous/ stale data is in the first stage of resolution/ removal
- All check ins should be marked with an X, not a check mark
- It was requested that lists of adds and deletes from this election to the next be provided to the BCA, prior to the next election.

Who/when will voting machines be set up in the gym?

- A team, supervised by Sandy Conti will meet at the storage shed, with Bruce's copy of the key, at 4:15 on 11/7. They will collect the voting apparatus and transport it to the school.
- The team will consist of some combination of Sandy, Chris Reed, Peter Hill, Casey Northrup, Rob Chickering and Riley Flynn
- This team will do the set up on Monday night and the take down on Tuesday night.

Who/when will signs be set up? Traffic control?

- Outside directional signs (Voting this way etc.) should be set up on the night before (if possible)
- Otherwise, first thing Tuesday morning
- Sandy will supervise traffic control and co-ordinate with the school
- The school should urge teachers to park at the Rec Fields on Election Day to minimize parking issues
- A sign will be posted requesting no candidate soliciting votes within 100 feet of the school building

- No posting of political signs on trees or surrounding structures

Who will work various stations in the voting area for what times?

- Rob Chickering and Florence will work on the check in table in the morning, and Rich Curtis and Julia Haynes will take over from 1 p.m. until the counting is complete. Jan and Becky will be coordinators and Tim and Dave will alternate at the Ballot box and roving to assist Sandy and Todd, the EMES Custodian. Denise will operate from the Town Office.

What materials will we need?

- Pencils, Pencil Sharpeners, Ballot marking pens, Post It notes, Rubber Fingers, Badges, Wi-Fi Access, Rubber bands, Adding Machine with tape, Master Tally Sheet, tabulator machine tape, Lap Top with State Site access, "I voted" or "Young Voter" stickers?, also access to a copy machine at the polls and after the polls close.

What will the procedure be for anyone who wants to register and vote on Election Day?

- Voter Registration ends 11/2 at 5PM.
- Anyone claiming to have pending registration with the DMV can sign an affidavit and vote, and those ballots will be processed if their registration information can be verified.

Who will be available to take ballots to anyone requesting home delivery?

- BCA members like Tim, Dave & Rob may be dispatched to deliver ballots on 11/8

Who will be available for counting after polls close?

- David Grundy (chair), Rob Chickering, Janice Aldrich, Tim Carver, Julia Haynes, Rebecca Reed, Florence Morse, Rich Curtis, CJ Flynn, Gene Troia

Suggested additions to the recommended 10+ counting pairs

- Janice Waterman, Carol Welch, Loring Starr, Rhoda Chickering, Sue Chickering, Cherie Staples, Sue Riggen, Edie Miller, Michael Duane, Becky Brown, Kristi Flynn, Karen Gramer

How/Where will results be tabulated?

- Ballot counting will be done at EMES
- Once the ballots are counted, they will be bagged, sealed and sent to the Town Office
- Ballots should be transported by pairs of Town officials, designated by the Town Clerk
- Becky Reed suggested ballot stacks of 50 and 10 pairs of ballot counters
- Absentee ballots will be organized and counted on Monday night, the 7th or Tuesday morning, of Election Day.

What will be done with counted ballots?

- They will be housed in the vault at the Town Office.

How will results be communicated?

- Town Clerk will follow the Secretary of State's procedure.

D. An upcoming training opportunity was mentioned, sponsored by the VLCT Legal Department, prior to the new same day registration implementation for 2017 Town Meeting

E. Omission of Julia Haynes from the upcoming Election ballot

- It was determined that Terri did not receive the necessary signatures
- Julia suggested that she would pursue a write-in campaign

F. Stipend/ Compensation for workers on Election Day

- Historically, this was not done consistently
- CJ agreed to work with the BCA to try to determine equitable compensation and propose the compensation plan to the BCA.

G. Additional Issues: Poll Watchers

- Due to the National Media pressures, the State will allow campaigns to send Poll Watchers for Voter Challenges to the polls, for this election. The “new rules” are still evolving, legally, but the State Director of Elections, Will Senning, sent these suggestions:

“For now, please remember that each party and each independent candidate may have two representatives, outside “the guardrail”, for the purpose of observing the vote and challenging the right of persons to vote. However, there are only two grounds on which they can challenge a person:

1. That the person is not the person they are claiming to be on the checklist, or
2. That the person has already voted in this election. “

- These are the very limited, specific reasons why a party’s or candidate’s Poll Watcher may challenge a person’s right to vote. They cannot, for instance, challenge a person on the basis that they are not a resident of the town. If a person is challenged, the BCA members present at the polls immediately meet, review the facts, and make a decision whether to admit the person to vote.
- This should be a non-event for us. Poll Watchers have an obligation to disclose their “role”. A designated area has been set up outside of the gym, for any “Poll Watchers” who appear on Election Day. We will direct any of these individuals to that area. Please be mindful of anyone “loitering” at the polls.

No other business was presented, so a motion was made (by R. Reed) and seconded (by T. Carver) to adjourn. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM

Respectfully,

CJ

CJ Flynn
East Montpelier Town Clerk