

TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER
BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Present: Jan Aldrich, Michael Duane, Amy Willis, Tony Klein, Carl Etnier, Becky Reed, Rosie Laquerre, Lindy Johnson, Florence Morse, Chris Racanelli (Guest)

- A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Jan Aldrich, Chair at 6:51 p.m.
- B. Additions to the Agenda**–Overview of learning from recent VLCT training.
- C. Public Comment** – There was no public comment
- D. Review of Recent VLCT Lister/Abatement Training:** There was discussion regarding the changes that have been made in the grievance process as well as how East Montpelier has handled that protocol over the years. Chris Racanelli shared his thoughts from the Lister point of view as well.
- E. Review VLCT Informational Handout relative to BCA Hearings:** Copies were distributed and reviewed.
- F. Adopt the VLCT model rules of Procedure for BCA Hearings:** Carl Etnier provided a couple of changes in the presented language as well as some suggestions for the sections that had blank spaces for the group to discuss and decide upon. Changes to the original document are:
- a. The phrase “Presiding Officer” was substituted for “Chair”
 - b. After much discussion weighing a number of factors, it was determined that 20 minutes would be the allotted time for hearings.
 - c. The group also agreed that hearings shall be conducted in the same order as they appear on the agenda unless modified by a two-third vote of the BCA.
 - d. The oath is changed to add the words, “or affirm” immediately following the phrase, “do you solemnly swear”
 - e. It was felt that meetings did not need to be tape recorded since the minutes were being taken during the live meeting.
 - f. It was determined that the rules may be amended by two thirds vote of the BCA.

Carl Etnier moved and Becky Reed seconded adoption of the Rules of Procedure for BCA Hearings as revised by the group. The motion carried and the rules were adopted.

- G. Checklist Challenges Review:** Rosie Laquerre responded to questions regarding the reasons for challenges given the information at hand. There was a large number of voters challenged for “Other” reasons by the previous Town Clerk. Rosie will go back to try to determine if she can ascertain specifics regarding this category. She will also provide an alphabetical listing by category for deliberative review by the group via e-mail.

H. Review of Elections Procedures: Rosie Laquerre distributed an Information for Election Workers and Presiding Officers for the group to have as a reference at upcoming elections. The document gives simple instructions for a variety of common questions.

Carl Etnier requested that the group come up with specific guidelines that allow campaigners and activists their free speech rights during the elections. This is in response to an issue that came up during an election when a person campaigning was asked to move to a different spot. He provided copies of the Polling Place rules. They expressed concern over voters feeling like they are “running a gauntlet” in order to enter the polling place. The group deferred to Rosie Laquerre, as the Presiding Office of Elections. Rosie has agreed to collaborate with Carl to find some general guidelines that work for all parties. The recommendations will be e-mailed to the larger group when the work is complete.

I. Adjourn: The group adjourned by consensus at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosie Laquerre
Town Clerk