

TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building

Present: Jon Jewett, Rebecca Reed, Lindy Johnson, Jan Aldrich, Jez Harrington, Rosie Laquerre

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Jan Aldrich, Chair. There were no agenda revisions or public comments.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Johnson moved and Ms. Reed seconded approval of the minutes of the February 16 meeting. The motion passed and minutes were approved.

DISCUSS JP REVIEW OF BALLOTS PRIOR TO PRINTING

Clerk Laquerre explained that a new procedure will be set in place to provide a more comprehensive review of ballots prior to them being submitted to the printer. Her process for Town Meeting ballots will include a double-pronged approach by creating a draft ballot for review in mid-January before the budget approval deadline. The draft will be reviewed by two Justices of the Peace and two Selectboard members (proofers). After final budget numbers are received and submitted to the printer, we'll get a final ballot back to be reviewed again by the same people. The Clerk will provide the "proofers" with the proof ballot, a copy of a sample ballot from previous elections and the Warning every time there is a ballot review for comparison purposes.

For any General Election when Justices of the Peace are nominated, a similar process will be in place, providing a copy of the previous ballot from 2020 and the listing of names from the Secretary of State's office. Proofers will volunteer during the BCA meeting prior to the election to perform this review.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING PREP

- Election setup
 - Clerk Laquerre reviewed the plans for setting up the municipal building conference room for the upcoming election.
 - Signage will be placed at the school to re-direct voters to the correct polling place. Signage will also be placed by the municipal building.
 - Discuss staffing needs for Special Town Meeting Election: There are very few people signed up to work, so the Clerk will recruit others. The Clerk will maintain the checklist for the day. Ms. Laquerre will also ensure that there are two members of the BCA that can be available via phone and/or zoom in the event there is an election question that requires a decision.

DISCUSS DATES FOR BIENNIAL PURGE MEETINGS

Rather than meet twice during the summer, the group asked that the Clerk send the checklist out to all members to review in July and they would send individual replies to the Clerk. The group will meet in late August to view the finalized checklist and approve the listing of those being purged.

ADJOURN: Ms. Reed moved and Ms. Johnson seconded to adjourn. The meeting ended at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosie Laquerre, Town Clerk