



**BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
OF JUNE 22, 2023**

Members: Darcie Abbene, Donald Blake, Ed Wilson, Jane Foster*, Judy Bickford, Laura Streets*, Leah Hollenberger, Monte Mason, Richard Craig, Sara Haskins, Shap Smith, Shelley Nolan, Urban Martin, Yvette Mason*

Absent: Aimee Towne, Chris Palermo, Don McDowell, Julia Compagna, Siri Rooney, Travis Sabtasao

Guests:

**participating via Zoom*

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Ed Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM at the Morrystown Municipal Building.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Add under Other Business

1. Updates from the Secretary of State Advisory Committee Meeting
2. Review BCA Communications

APPROVE MINUTES

1. **Approve minutes of April 5, 2023**

Motion made by Shap Smith to approve the minutes of April 5, 2023. Motion seconded by Shelley Nolan. Motion carried. (14/0)

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Review feedback from Special Elections on April 18 and June 6, 2023**

The Board reviewed feedback from the Special Elections on April 18 and June 6. Overall feedback was positive. The Board discussed needing a larger space to hold floor town meetings but as voters have approved all voting by Australian ballot this will no longer be an issue going forward. The Board discussed the confusion among voters at the June 6 meeting that the Town had voted to mail all active voters their ballots but the School did not. This created more logistical work for election workers on the voter checklist. Also, many voters expressed confusion as to why they did not receive the school ballot as they expected despite communications that they would need to request their school ballot.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss upcoming elections

As the budget has failed there will be another revote sometime in the coming months. No date has been set yet. It will be by Australian ballot and all voters will be mailed ballots. Sara shared that she has sent out requests for bids for mailing houses to mail all active voters their ballots. Many towns have started to do this vs mailing them out themselves. She has received recommendations of companies that provide this service from other towns and the Secretary of States Office.

2. Discuss Biennial Checklist Clean up

The biennial checklist cleanup is a mandatory process that must occur by September 20 every other year. It can not be performed 90 days before an election. Sara Haskins has requested a waiver from the Secretary of States Office if we don't have an approved budget and need to hold an election within the timeframe of the deadline.

3. Review checklist changes

Sara Haskins presented a list of changes to the voter checklist since the last time reviewed on June 6, 2023. There have been 2 new voter registrations, 1 voter challenged, 2 voters purged and 4 voters transferred to other towns in Vermont. There are currently 4287 voters on the checklist. The BCA reviewed the changes.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Updates from the Secretary of State Advisory Committee Meeting**

Sara Haskins shared that she attended the monthly Secretary of State Advisory Committee meeting this week. The focus this month was on Elections and Lori Bjornland, Elections Administrator joined them. Sara shared updates she received at the meeting including potential upcoming training, new software, a new Statewide Civics and Outreach Coordinator and that there were no new election laws passed this year by the legislature.

- **Review BCA Communications**

Ed Wilson, BCA chair, shared concerns received by citizens regarding communications on social media by BCA members and their feeling that people working at the polls should remain neutral on social media platforms. The Town has a social media policy, if BCA members have questions about the policy they can contact Town Administration for information. The Board discussed using judgment when communicating about elections on social media and adding a disclaimer that they are posting as a citizen not on behalf of the Board when sharing opinions vs stating facts.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Judy Bickford to adjourn. Motion seconded by Shap Smith. Motion carried. (14/0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm
Submitted and filed this June 26, 2023.
Sara Haskins, Clerk

Please note all minutes are in Draft form and are subject to approval at the next Board of Civil Authority meeting.