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## BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING September 8, 2021

The Board of Civil Authority of the Town of Morristown, notified and warned, met remotely on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

### ***BCA Members present:***

Justice of the Peace: Brent Paine, Donald Blake, Edward Wilson, Julia Compagna, Monte Mason, Shap Smith, Shelley Nolan, Siri Rooney (remote) and Urban Martin.

Selectboard: Judy Bickford (remote) and Brian Kellogg

Clerk: Sara Haskins

- Ed Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.
- There were no changes or additions.
- Ed Wilson welcomed new Board members. Sara Haskins shared that Rhoda Bedell has resigned, the Democrats recommended Darcie Abbene to be appointed to fill the spot on the Board and the governor has appointed Darcie. Eric Dodge also submitted his resignation. The Republicans have recommend Andrea Beeman. Sara has not heard yet if the governor has appointed Andrea to the open spot.
- Sara Haskins handed out updated information for the BCA handbooks.
- **Shelley Nolan nominated Edward Wilson as chair and Donnie Blake as Vice-chair of the Board of Civil Authority. Brian Kellogg seconded the motion. Edward Wilson was elected chair and Donnie Blake was elected vice-chair on a voice vote. (12/0).**
- **Upon motion by Urban Martin and seconded by Donnie Blake the minutes of January 5, 2021 were approved. (12/0)**
- The BCA preformed the bi-annual review of the voter checklist and confirmed the names to be challenged. **Shelley Nolan made a motion to instruct the Town Clerk to send out letters to the voters indicated on the challenge list plus others mentioned in the meeting and report the findings to the Secretary of State's Office by September 20, 2021. Brian Kellogg seconded the motion. Motion passed (12/0).**
- The BCA reviewed the recent 2021 election law changes (Act 60). Sara Haskins will be attending a training later this month and will share more details after that.

**Shap Smith made a motion to adopt VSA 2546(a) deposit of early voter absentee ballots in vote tabulator with the new provision during the 30 days preceding the election. Donnie Blake seconded the motion. Motion passed (12/0).**

**Shap Smith made a motion to allow the return of ballots to a drop box up until the closing of the polls on Election Day as allowed in VSA 2543(a). Shelley Nolan seconded the motion. Motion passed (12/0).**

- The Board discussed at length early voting in town clerk's office; deposit into vote tabulator by voter as allowed in VSA 2546(b). The Board tabled the item until the Secretary of State's office issues procedures for this process.
- **Ed Wilson made a motion to reserve the VFW as a backup location and also reserve the Town Conference room for a polling place. Urban Martin seconded the motion.**

**After brief discussion Ed Wilson withdrew his motion.**

**Julia Compagna made a motion to set the polling location and times to be what they were pre-covid. Shelley Nolan seconded the motion. Motion passed (12/0).**

The Board instructed Sara Haskins to also reserve the VFW for a backup location in case the need may arise for a bigger space.

- Under other business Sara Haskins shared:
  - The Town and School have both received legal opinions that the Stowe withdrawal from the School District Union vote is a Town election set by the Selectboard. The date and time for that election needs to be coordinated with Elmore. No date has been set yet, but it could possibly happen at Annual Town Meeting 2022 or at a special election before that.
  - Upcoming party caucus dates.
  - Census numbers have been published. Expect that the BCA will have to work on reapportionment during October 25 thru November 15, 2021.

**With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM upon motion by Shap Smith and seconded by Urban Martin.**

Respectfully submitted and filed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.  
Sara Haskins, Clerk- Board of Civil Authority

***Please note all minutes are in draft form and are subject to approval at the next BCA meeting.***