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BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING OF JUNE 29, 2020

The Board of Civil Authority of the Town of Morristown, notified and warned, met in the Conference Room at the Municipal Office Building, 43 Portland Street in said town on Monday, June 29, 2020 immediately following the Board of Abatement Meeting.

BCA Members present:

Justice of the Peace: Aimee Towne (phone), Donald Blake, Edward Wilson, Judy Bickford (phone), Monte Mason, Peg Demars, Rhoda Bedell, Ronald Stancliff, Sam Guy, Shap Smith (phone), Shelley Nolan, Siri Rooney (phone) and Urban Martin.

Selectboard: Brian Kellogg

Clerk: Sara Haskins

- Edward Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:14 PM.
- There were no changes or additions.
- **Upon motion by Peg Demars and seconded by Urban Martin the minutes of February 20, 2020 were approved. (15/0)**
- The Board discussed setting the hours and polling locations for the August 11, 2020 Statewide Primary and the November 3, 2020 General Election. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Board felt that a bigger polling location should be used to allow more social distancing and to have a separate entrance and exit into the polling location. The Board discussed various locations in town including the VFW, the gym at the High School and the Armory building. After a lengthy discussion regarding the location and safety procedures, ***Ron Stancliff made a motion to set the VFW as the polling place for the August 11, 2020 Statewide Primary with a backup location of the Morristown Municipal Building if the VFW is not available with polling hours from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Shelley Nolan seconded the motion. Motion passed. (15/0)*** The Board asked Sara Haskins to investigate and see availability in other locations for the General Election.
- The Board discussed the upcoming election, poll work schedules and procedures and responsibilities. Sara Haskins informed the Board that the Secretary of State's Office has supplied all towns with cleaning supplies and masks. She asked all BCA members to email her their availability to work the primary in order to see if more election officials would be needed. It was suggested the Town Clerk's Office work with the surrounding towns to run weekly announcements in the paper, front porch forum, social media and the radio listing all the ways to get an absentee ballot and contact information for all the Lamoille County Town Clerks. The Board asked Sara to check with the Secretary of State's Office to see if temperature checks would need to be taken at the polls and finding out any legal reasons in

the context of voting that we could not require wearing face masks at the polls. Sara Haskins presented information about a new law going into effect on July 1st regarding depositing ballots in the tabulator prior to Election Day. The BCA may vote to allow those who vote early in the Town Clerk's Office to deposit their ballots directly into the tabulator. Additionally there is currently a law that the BCA may vote to deposit all absentee ballots into the tabulator at the Town Clerk's Office the night before the election. **Shelley Nolan made a motion to adopt day preceding election; deposit of early voter absentee ballots in vote tabulator pursuant to 17 VSA 2546(a). Peg Demars seconded the motion. Motion passed (15/0).**

- Under other business Ed Wilson expressed his concerns regarding the mass mailing of absentee ballots to all active voters at the checklist for the General Election and his concerns with how the BCA can certify that those ballots were actually voted by the registered voter as we do not keep signatures on file to verify.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM upon motion by Shelly Nolan and seconded by Donnie Blake.

Respectfully submitted and filed this 30th day of June 2020
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.