

**BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

Present: Elisabeth Mickenberg, Helen Rock, Lenore Broughton, Martha Gile, Ariana Cano, Grace Grundhauser, Michelle Lefkowitz, Kate Baldwin, Larry Granillo, Annie Schneider, Rebecca Cunningham – Youth Member

Also Present: Amy Bovee, Assistant City Clerk

Absent: Charles Cashatt, Jim Rader

Minute Taker: Sue Trainor

Agenda: Mickenberg called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Nothing was added to the agenda.

Set Meeting Length: The meeting was scheduled to be one hour in length.

Minutes: Baldwin made a motion, seconded by Gile, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Broughton asked if there was any information on the challenged letters. Bovee stated responses had been received. A number of the respondents stated they had moved out of town and another large grouping came back as undeliverable.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Approval of Applications: Bovee reported that in January there had been 171 new voters, 103 transferred out of town, and 75 were removed. Lefkowitz made a motion to accept 171 new voters, 103 transfers and 75 deletions. Gile seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Clerk's Report: Bovee reported the challenge letters had gone out in January in preparation for the ballots being mailed. The candidates and ballot questions were finalized last week. Ballots were at the printers and would be going to the mail house over the course of the week. It was estimated that the ballots would be mailed on Wednesday, February 10th and voters should receive their ballot around February 14th. That would provide the time necessary for voters to return their ballot by mail, in the drop boxes, or at the polls.

Granillo was concerned about delays in the mail. Bovee stated she had contacted the Postmaster and was informed that mail was moving smoothly in the Burlington area. Lefkowitz noted it could be an issue for voters who were out of town. Rock asked if the mailing included information on when to have the ballot in the mail by. Bovee stated there was an insert and it recommended mailing the ballot back ten days before the election and also listed the drop boxes as an alternative.

Rock suggested that Bovee contact the media to let them know of the tight voting schedule. Lefkowitz proposed that for future elections to provide the web link so people could review whether their ballot had arrived.

Prepare for March Election: Mickenberg confirmed that they would be flexible and willing to do the same day and challenge forms if needed.

Mickenberg then outlined the members who were covering wards on Election Day:

Ward 1: Broughton
Ward 2: Granillo
Ward 3: Lefkowitz
Ward 4: Gile

Ward 5: Schneider
Ward 6: Rock
Ward 7: Grundhauser
Ward 8: Cashatt

Both Cano and Cunningham would serve as floats.

Mickenberg noted that students were able to work on Election Day. Cunningham stated students had expressed an interest. Rock suggested prioritizing BHS seniors who needed the community service hours to graduate. Mickenberg would schedule as many students as she could. Mickenberg then received requests from each member on break times.

Bovee confirmed that she would go through the BRV folders prior to the election. Granillo asked that written language on what a challenged vote meant be placed in the BRV folders. Bovee stated she would provide that information. Rock reminded members to check the supplemental list.

Bovee informed the Board that the Mayoral candidate would need to receive 40% of the vote. If that didn't happen, a runoff election would be held on March 30th. Additionally, a special election would need to take place if Tracy or Dieng were to win, as their Council seats would need to be filled. That election had a longer timeline.

In explaining the supplemental checklist, Bovee stated that the checklist was printed on Saturday. However, registrations continued to be accepted until Monday at 1:00 p.m., at which point the supplemental checklist was printed. On Tuesday, the voter would need to complete an application at the polls.

Mickenberg informed the Board that she, Baldwin and Rader would be available all day for questions.

Baldwin stated that the minutes for the last meeting needed to be changed to add that Grundhauser was at the meeting.

Rock asked if voters could be contacted if their mail-in ballots were spoiled. Bovee explained that Vermont law did not currently allow voters to correct any issues on ballots that were received in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office.

Granillo confirmed with Bovee that golf pencils could be used to mark the ballots.

Adjourn: Lefkowitz made a motion, seconded by Cano, to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.