

BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

MEET: Time 6:00 7/12/22

Where: Community Room at the Police Department

Present: Grace Grundhauser, Michelle Lefkowitz, Kate Baldwin, Helen Rock, Annie Schneider, Larry Granillo, Mike McGarghan, Thea Knight, Karen Rowell

Absent: Charles Cashatt, Martha Gile, Elisabeth Mickenberg, Youth Member Rebecca Cunningham

Also Present: Sarah Montgomery, Associate City Clerk

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Michelle Lefkowitz at 6:04pm

Agenda: Thea Knight made a motion to approve. Approved unanimously.

Introductions: Everyone present introduced themselves.

Board Chair and Vice Chair Appointments: Lis previously shared that she no longer wanted to be Board chair. Michelle Lefkowitz opened up nominations for a new chair. Kate Baldwin nominated Grace Grundhauser for chair. Michelle Lefkowitz seconded. Helen Rock nominated Michelle Lefkowitz as Vice Chair. Larry Granillo seconded. No other nominations. No discussion. Kate Baldwin moved to close nominations. Helen Rock seconded. Appointments will be made for one year. Both Grace Grundhauser as chair, and Michelle Lefkowitz as vice chair were elected unanimously.

Meeting Length: The meeting length was set for 1 hour.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Mike McGarghan asked if the board was advocating for all-resident voting or just providing information to Councilor Carpenter at the last meeting. Thea Knight said she got the impression it was a general discussion, but that she is concerned about why Burlington is trying to do this rather than focus on educating citizens who already have the privilege to vote. Helen Rock said she felt Sarah Carpenter was mostly here to share information. Annie Schneider said our ongoing work is to educate and campaign for everyone to vote, but that she also thinks that the issue of all resident voting is within the scope of the board. Grace Grundhauser suggested that the minutes could be edited to add more clarification that Councilor Carpenter was sharing information if the board agreed that was the intent. Kate Baldwin says she thinks it is clear since the discussion was under public comment and that no board action was taken on that item. Mike McGarghan stated he wants it to be clear that it was information sharing and discussion and that no board action was taken.

Mike McGarghan made a motion to amend the minutes to add "The board took no action on these public comments" at the end of the public comment section. Motion was seconded by Karen Rowell.

Discussion on motion: Annie Schneider asked if we did this for these minutes would we need to do it at the end of every public comment. Helen Rock added that the topic didn't seem like something that needed board action but that she would be open to amending the minutes to clarify that Sarah

Carpenter was here in an informational capacity. Mike McGarghan doesn't want Sarah Carpenter to go back to City Council thinking the board gave approval to move forward since there were no objections at the meeting.

Moved to vote. In favor: 4. Opposed: 5. Motion failed.

Thea Knight moved to approve the minutes as written. GG seconded. Approved unanimously.

Public Comments: No public comment.

Approval of Applications: Sarah Montgomery reported:

June - New Registrations 206, Transferred out of Town 185, Purged 42

Grace Grundhauser made a motion to accept the numbers as presented, seconded by Annie Schneider. The motion passed unanimously.

Clerk's Report:

Mike McGarghan asked how many challenged voters there are and asked if we know how many challenged voters try to vote. Sarah Montgomery responded that if a challenged voter tries to vote at a polling place, their challenged status would be noted on the checklist and they would be referred to the BRV table to address the issue. Challenged voters are not issued absentee ballots in elections where ballots are automatically mailed. Grace Grundhauser asked how the recent challenges from after last election may have affected the number of challenged voters. Sarah Montgomery stated that around 900 voters were challenged due to undeliverable mail ballots from the March election. She does not have the exact number, but she did not receive a ton of responses back from voters responding to those challenges. Mike McGarghan asked if challenged voters every get removed from the checklist. Larry Granillo states that yes, challenged voters are removed after two general elections if they have still not addressed the issue or tried to participate in an election. Sarah Montgomery confirmed that was correct.

So far, for the August election, 2,442 ballots have been requested and mailed out; 667 have been returned back to us.

Mike McGarghan asked if we had new tabulators from the state. Sarah Montgomery answered yes – the state issued new tabulators to all VT cities and towns. Mike asked about the tabulators and if they have a modem. Sarah Montgomery said no they do not connect to the internet, but she will send the exact info from the Secretary of State's Office and Dominion.

Redistricting: new maps are online. Mike McGarghan asked if voters will have different places to vote. No, the polling place will be the same and voters will still vote at the polling place within their ward. The state districts reflected on the ballots is what has changed.

Helen Rock asked about defective ballots. Has the clerk's office received many? Sarah Montgomery stated that the clerk's office has received about 10 and those voters are being given the opportunity to cure their ballot online or mailing us back a form with their signature.

Application Signing Schedule:

The Board set the following schedule until the next meeting is held: July 14 – Annie; July 21st – Grace; July 28 -- Thea

New Business

Talk about which wards BRV members will be assigned to for the primary in August. Grace Grundhauser talked about Lis still wanting to coordinate where people will go on election day - is there a sense we will be short staffed? Everyone present can work. Discussion on how training for new members works; new members rotate throughout wards to get a feel for different wards. More planning will happen at the August meeting. Mike McGarghan said he thought there wasn't normally a board meeting during an election month. Michelle Lefkowitz said there would not be a meeting if the election falls on the 1st Tuesday of the month, but that the board decided to still meet so things could be decided ahead of the election. Kate Baldwin agreed that the board decided to save the meeting date because people weren't sure everything would be organized during the July meeting and at this point it seems like we need the extra meeting.

Mike McGarghan asked if it would be helpful to share phone numbers within the group. Michelle Lefkowitz asked everyone to informally share phone numbers after meeting.

Kate Baldwin asked if BRV folders would be available at the next meeting or still on Election Day. Sarah Montgomery said no they will not be ready for the meeting and are still going to the polling places on Election Day. Kate Baldwin also suggested to Grace that she now reach out to BRV members to see who needs breaks on Election Day to determine how many people may be needed for BRV helpers.

Helen Rock asked what the training process is for new members. Grace Grundhauser stated that in addition to the Election Day training, she would be willing to do a quick VEMs overview with Karen Rowell before the election.

On a motion by Mike McGarghan, seconded by Annie Schneider, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sarah Montgomery, Associate City Clerk