

BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

MEET: Time 6:00 12/4/2018

Where: Community Room, Police Department

Present: Jim Rader, Elisabeth Mickenberg, Martha Gile, Larry Granillo, Helen Rock, Weiwei Wang, Lenore Broughton, Mohamed Jafar, Michelle Lefkowitz

Absent: Charles Cashatt, Katherine Miles

Also Present: Amy Bovee, Assistant City Clerk

Meeting called to order by Chair Lis @ 6:04 p.m.

Agenda: The agenda was adopted as presented.

Meeting Length: The Board agreed that the meeting would last for one hour.

Minutes: Jim Rader requested an amendment to the minutes to clarify the amendment he had made to the previous month's minutes. Jim Rader made a motion to adopt the minutes as amended, seconded by Weiwei Wang. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Applications: Amy Bovee submitted: October: new voter registrations 1,133, purged 53, transferred out of town 535. November: new voter registrations 1,758, purged 70, transferred out of town 601.

Motion made by Michelle Lefkowitz to accept the numbers, seconded by Weiwei Wang. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk's Report: Amy Bovee reported that the election had been much busier than expected, and that more people had voted than in the 2012 Presidential Election. She noted that there were 1,222 Election Day Registrations, and many more address changes. She thanked the Board for their hard work on such a busy day.

Amy Bovee also welcomed Mohamed Jafar to the Board, and reported that Sue Adams had resigned from the Board. She asked Board members to be thinking of people who may be interested in applying with the hopes of having a full Board in time for the March Election.

Member's Report: Jim Rader asked members to review the draft procedures document while Election Day is still fresh in their minds. He asked members to send any comments to Amy Bovee by December 18.

Review Application Signing Schedule

Dec 7 – Jim, Dec 11 – Larry, Dec 14 – Weiwei, Dec 18 – Martha, Dec 21 – Mohamed, Dec 28 – Michelle

New Business

a. November Election Recap

The Board discussed their experience working at the polls on Election Day. A few members noted that their Ward Clerks had not used their supplemental checklists which caused many voters to have to re-register in error. They also noted that at times challenged voters were being sent to them in error. Two members reported that there was no one available to staff the Election Day Registration table and they ended up doing most of that work. Amy Bovee and the Board agreed to schedule a training with both BRV and Ward Clerks present before the next election. Board members also requested a shortcut to the interactive web map be added to their laptops.

b. Translation Services and the Vermont Voter's Oath

Mohamed Jafar expressed an interest in the Board working with the State of Vermont to find a solution to offer translation services at the polls. Amy Bovee shared that the City has recently heard more demand for this type of service, and they are exploring options related to using the Accessible Voting Machines as translators, or to having a phone translation service available. Helen Rock made a motion for the Board for Registration of Voters to draft a letter to the Secretary of State's Office and request a meeting to address the need for translation services, seconded by Mohamed Jafar. The motion passed by a vote of 10-1 with Lenore Broughton voting against.

Board members expressed concerns that the language in the Vermont Voter's Oath is outdated and they would like to see it updated. Mohamed Jafar also thought that something other than the term "principal dwelling" should be used on the Voter Registration Application. Amy Bovee noted that a change to the Oath would require an amendment to the Vermont Constitution, but a change to the terminology on the application is something they could request that the Secretary of State's Office change. Helen Rock made a motion to create a subcommittee to draft a plan for a new oath and to work with Legislators who could champion the change, seconded by Mohamed Jafar. The motion passed unanimously with Lenore Broughton abstaining. Michelle Lefkowitz, Weiwei Wang, Helen Rock, Jim Rader and Mohamed Jafar volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

c. Article

Lenore Broughton passed out an article from *True North Reports* titled "Roper: How I voted three times or not". She requested that Board members read the article and discuss it at their next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 6pm, Community Room, Police Department

Respectfully Submitted By:

Amy Bovee, Assistant City Clerk