

BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

MEET: Time 6:00            1/7/2020

Where: Community Room, Police Department

**Present:** Elisabeth Mickenberg, Michelle Lefkowitz, Larry Granillo, Jim Rader, Kate Baldwin, Helen Rock, Lenore Broughton, Mohamed Jafar, Martha Gile, Weiwei Wang, Annie Schneider, Youth Member Rebecca Cunningham

**Absent:** Charles Cashatt, Youth Member Tula Adie

**Also Present:** Christine Dunbar-Clerk/Treasurer's Office, Cathy Resmer-*Seven Days*

**Meeting called to order by Chair Lis**

**Agenda:** The agenda was accepted as presented.

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

**Minutes:** Motion made by Jim Rader to accept the December minutes as presented, seconded by Michelle Lefkowitz. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments:** Cathy Resmer from *Seven Days* was present to speak to the Board about the Good Citizen Challenge taking place across Vermont. The program, powered by *Seven Days*, is designed for Vermont students in grades 5 through 9. Students can participate online and in their community and earn prizes such as virtual badges, medals, and T-shirts. Cathy wanted to observe the meeting and hear more about what the Board does. Cathy also inquired about running a sample ballot in *Seven Days* and how to go about that process. She stated that she could possibly find sponsorship to pay for the sample ballots to be run in the paper. Christine stated that she will take note of this and will have the City Attorney's office and or Amy Bovee look into the regulations of this process.

Annie and Mohamed reported that they went to the Secretary of State's office and were successful in their plan to help new Americans by translating the ballots into 6 different languages that will be available in Burlington and Winooski. Annie stated this is a pilot project. There are also videos that were created to help with instructions on how to vote. There is an event coming up to launch this project on January 25<sup>th</sup> in Burlington and on February 8<sup>th</sup> in Winooski. The Board asked if they could volunteer at this event and bring City laptops. Christine stated she would make a note of this and would check in with Amy once she is back.

**Approval of Applications:** Christine Dunbar submitted: December: new voter registrations 204, purged 23, transferred out of town 119.

Michelle Lefkowitz made a motion to accept the numbers, seconded by Jim Rader. Motion passed unanimously.

**Clerk's Report:** Christine stated that Tenzin will be processing voter registration applications while Amy is out so, Board members should see him when they come in to sign.

**Motion to Divide the Checklist:** Lis read the motion: "Pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2501(a), the Board for Registration of Voters shall divide the checklist into eight (8) Wards for the March 3, 2020 Annual City Election."

Jim Rader made a motion to accept and divide the checklist, seconded by Kate Baldwin. Motion passed unanimously.

**Member's Reports:**

**Oath Subcommittee:** The Board is working on amending the voter's oath to make it easier to understand. There is a draft letter that was reviewed/edited by the Board during the meeting that will be sent to the Secretary of State's office once the Board agrees on a final version of the letter.

Jim Rader made a motion to accept the letter as amended, seconded by Lenore Broughton. Motion passed unanimously.

**Procedures Subcommittee:**

**Website/Outreach Subcommittee:**

**Other Updates:** The Board had questions about City funding to produce sample ballot inserts for *North Avenue News* and potentially *Seven Days*. The Board acknowledged that there is zero dollars in the budget and would like to look into that issue more. The Board discussed going to the Board of Finance and or reaching out to City Councilors to get assistance in funding for the upcoming election.

**Review/Re-do Application signing schedule**

Jan 10 – Kate, Jan 14 – Martha, Jan 17 – Weiwei, Jan 21 – Annie, Jan 24 – Larry, Jan 28 – Jim, Jan 31 - Mohamed

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Christine Dunbar, Clerk/Treasurer's Office