BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 – COUNCIL CHAMBERS 5:00pm


Town Moderator: Cindy Robertson   Town Clerk: Todd Rainier
Deputy Town Clerk: Billie Hebert   Guests: Mike Horne

Moderator Cindy Robertson called meeting to order at 5:00pm.


September Primary – Discussion/Lessons Learned: All reported hearing much positive feedback regarding handling of lines and overall smooth flow of voters on election day. Cindy shared that the observer from the Democratic party had nothing but good things to say. Cindy reported that a total of four voters used the alternative (no mask) voting area. Two that would not and two that could not wear masks. With 6,000 in-person voters potentially expected on November 3rd, perhaps the same method utilized in September will work. Three shifts for poll workers went well. Two FD personnel working with voters at front door worked well.

Mike Horne stated that several of the masks we were issuing had defective ear straps.

Kim Daggett shared that the article Cindy sent to the newspaper detailing work involved and the need for greater community involvement in November was spot-on.
November General Election Planning – Discussion

Mike Horne shared that as much room as possible in the gym dedicated to voter queueing lines must be made possible for November.

Todd shared the plan for angling the ballot clerk tables to face the gym entrance door and fanning the tables to gain space. Plan is for 12 ballot clerk stations. Measurements indicate this is an absolute maximum number.

Discussion regarding alternative outside polling area. Location must be changed for November. Possibly to space outside gym door that was used for poll worker break area in September.

Discussion regarding Kmart as alternate polling location. Cindy has contacted management company for plaza but has not received confirmation of availability November 3rd. Javier expressed concern for infringing on parking for existing businesses in the plaza. Mike shared that a few of the store fronts have signs but are vacant.

Cindy stated it would be great to have a traffic study using pneumatic counter from November (number of cars per hour) for future reference.

Mike asked about GE personnel availability for November. Don was going to follow-up.

Discussion regarding layout plan for ballot clerks and polling area. SoC in cafeteria. Use of folder/mats and potential handout to voters in hallway/before getting ballot. Some discussion regarding following a model used in Milford for voters to cast ballot where they register, in separate room. Could this be done with one ballot clerk? Todd to follow up with SOS.
Mike recommends two “traffic control” personnel – highly engaging - stationed outside the cafeteria hallway area with alpha books.

Mike Horne departed at 6pm.

Barb asked about the absentee ballot process. Todd shared the pre-processing method Hooksett utilized before the September primary. Voter names were announced and name on checklist was highlighted. The process allowed for notification of voters whose absentee affidavit had not been signed, or some other insufficiency was realized, to allow voter an opportunity to cure the deficiency. Todd reported that between 20 and 30 people experienced these anomalies. Most of the voters remedied the deficiency or appeared at the polls and voted on election day. The process worked in this regard.

Todd reported that he had a discussion with Cindy and Don of necessary improvements to the pre-processing event that should be allowed for November. Steps like full markings on the checklist at the pre-processing session would eliminate the need for runners to merge in long voter lines at the polls, thus making for lower voter throughput times. Todd reported that the governor was sent a letter, endorsed by many election officials, requesting this change be made before November. Results of letter TBA.

Barb motioned and Cindy seconded to adjourn at 6:10pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Please see subsequent meeting minutes for any amendments to these minutes.