

**BOARD OF CANVASSERS
JAMESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND
January 19, 2024**

An advertised meeting of the Board of Canvassers was called to order at 9:35 AM by Carol Nelson- Lee at 93 Narragansett Ave. The following member(s) was present.

Ken Newman – Member
Hugh Murphy – Member

Absent: Kitty Wineberg – Alternate
 Jennifer Thran – Alternate

Also present was: Keith Ford, Deputy Town Clerk / Clerk to the Board of Canvassers
 Roberta Fagan, Town Clerk

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Nelson-Lee opened with the approval of minutes from November 7, 2023. All members reviewed the minutes. Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the November 7, 2023 with a second by Mr. Newman. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Murphy, Aye; and Mr. Newman, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously. All members then reviewed the minutes from November 8, 2023. Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the November 8, 2023 with a second by Mr. Newman. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Abstained; Mr. Murphy, Aye; and Mr. Newman, Aye. Vote Passed.

Ms. Nelson-Lee then opened the review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote on the Certification of Nomination papers for Presidential Candidates. All members reviewed each nomination paper. Mr. Murphy made a motion to certify the nomination papers with a second by Mr. Newman. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Murphy, Aye; and Mr. Newman, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

Ms. Nelson-Lee then opened the review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote on the Notary Public Signature Affirmation Certifications. Mr. Ford commented that we had 21 total petition papers that were had notary affirmation certifications from one specific notary. Out of the 21, 16 had one signature and handwriting. 5 had completely different signatures and handwriting. Mr. Ford commented he invited the notary in question to appear at the meeting, but they were unable. Ms. Nelson-Lee commented we can file an official complaint with the Secretary of States' Office regarding the issue. A discussion ensued. Mr. Murphy made a motion to authorize Mr. Ford to complete the complaint form questioning the notary's signature, with a second from Mr. Newman. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Murphy, Aye; and Mr. Newman, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

Ms. Nelson-Lee then opened the review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote on the Certification of Petition Papers for 'No Labels Rhode Island' political party. Mr. Murphy questioned how many signatures total received, accepted and invalid. Mr. Ford commented that a total of 123 signatures were collected, 46 of those were invalid due to various reasons, 77 total were accepted as valid signatures. Mr. Newman

questioned if the ratio of invalid to valid signatures seemed high. Mr. Ford commented that with regards to invalid signatures it did seem on the high side. This led Mr. Ford to contact a couple of the voters on the list with invalid signatures who stated that they did not sign these forms. Mr. Murphy made a motion to certify the petition papers with a second by Mr. Newman. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Murphy, Aye; and Mr. Newman, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

Ms. Nelson-Lee then opened the review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote on the referral of suspected invalid signature on petition papers to the local police for investigation. Ms. Nelson-Lee commented that both the Board of Elections and the Jamestown Police want the original petition papers. Mr. Murphy made a motion to submit the originals to the Board of Elections and a certified copy, made by the Town Clerk, to the Jamestown Police Department with a second from Mr. Newman. Mr. Ford commented with the form numbers 742, 1080, 1084, 1342, and 1391 specifically to be referred to police as those petitions have confirmed fraudulent signatures. Mr. Murphy asked to amend the motion to include these form numbers, seconded by Mr. Newman. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Murphy, Aye; and Mr. Newman, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

Ms. Nelson-Lee then opened the review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote on the Polling Place location and/or the combination of Polling Place locations for the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP). Ms. Nelson-Lee commented that we usually have two different polling places, District 1 and District 2. We should combine them into one for the PPP as we expect a modest turnout. The districts would be combined and we would use the Lawn Ave School, as the school has planned for this and will have no classes in session that day. Ms. Nelson-Lee commented that there is legislation now that during any Primary or Elections schools are to be closed to free up polling locations. Mr. Newman commented that a single polling place for the PPP will be adequate since we have mail ballots and early voting. Mr. Ford commented that the Board of Elections does like the Lawn Ave School better due to the accessibility, parking and ease of use of the school. Mr. Murphy made a motion to combine District 1 and District 2 polling places and have it located at the Lawn Ave School. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Murphy, Aye; and Mr. Newman, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

Ms. Nelson-Lee then opened the review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote on the updates concerning the Elections Training and Advisory Committee progress. Mr. Ford commented that we have three interested people in the committee. Linda Jamison, former Board member, is interested, the Town Council did not see a need in conducting an interview with her due to her past experience being on the Board. Laura Goldstein and Daphne Meredith on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 Town Council meeting. Both interviews went very well. They have readvertised for the committee with the deadline for applications being January 31, 2024. Mr. Newman questioned if the Board of Canvasser member has been appointed. Mr. Ford commented that they have not but can I have placed on the next agenda. Ms. Nelson-Lee commented she would like to back Mr. Newman as the Board member on the committee and would like to remove her name. No Action/Vote Taken.

Ms. Nelson-Lee then opened the review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote on the Board of Elections mandatory signature training on December 11, 2023. Ms. Nelson-Lee commented that Mr. Newman and herself attended the training via zoom on December 11, Mr. Murphy took the training later online as, but is concerned as the two alternate Board members have yet to take the training. Mr. Ford commented he did speak with both the alternates yesterday and they both plan on taking the training. No Action/Vote Taken.

Ms. Nelson-Lee commented that she would like to make note that the next agenda will include poll workers scheduling for the PPP, the use of the library meeting room as a polling place, and climate change and voting. Mr. Murphy commented that he will be out of town February 3-17, 2024. Mr. Newman commented he would like to speak on the newly formed the State Board of Canvassers ad hoc working committee to talk about issues with 2024 Elections and beyond. No Action/Vote Taken.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to adjourn with a second by Mr. Newman. Voted: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Murphy, Aye; and Newman, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Attest:



Keith Ford
Clerk to the Board of Canvassers

Cc: Town Council Members (5)
Board of Canvassers (4)
Roberta Fagan, Town Clerk