

JAMESTOWN BOARD OF CANVASSERS MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024
9:30 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Canvassers was called to order at 9:30 A.M. at 93 Narragansett Ave in the conference room. Board of Canvassers Members present were as follows Ms. Carol Nelson-Lee, Mr. Kenneth Newman, and Mr. Hugh Murphy. Absent from the meeting were as follows: Ms. Katherine Wineberg (Alternate), Ms. Jennifer Thran (Alternate).

Also in attendance was Keith Ford, Deputy Town Clerk/Clerk to the Board of Canvassers.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote concerning the updates to the Presidential Preference Primary.

Mr. Ford commented that Early Voting started yesterday on Wednesday, March 13 and we have had a total of 8 voters yesterday and one today so far. Ms. Nelson-Lee asked why we have not put-up signage regarding candidates that have dropped out of the race. Mr. Ford commented we have had no direction by the Board of Elections to do so. Mr. Ford commented he has a meeting with McQuade's Market later today regarding catering for Primary Day. Ms. Nelson-Lee also commented regarding her and Mr. Ford having a meeting with Ms. Sheley from the Jamestown Library regarding using the library meeting room as a potential polling location later today.

- B) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote concerning the Certification of Mail Ballot Applications.

Mr. Ford presented the Board with 3 mail ballots on 2 certification sheets. The Board reviewed each application. Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the certification of the mail ballots with a second by Mr. Newman. Mr. Murphy questioned how many online mail ballot applications we have received. Mr. Ford was unsure of the exact number as he approves them and they go to the Secretary of State's Office for certification. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Newman, Aye; and Mr. Murphy, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

- C) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote concerning the Elections Training and Advisory Committee progress.

Mr. Newman commented that the committee recently had their first meeting and all members attended. They spoke about publicity about aspects of voting. A pamphlet has been created, by Laura Goldstein, to be used as an informational brochure for election time. Mr. Newman commented he is currently in talks with the Jamestown Press about adding it to the weekly paper free of charge. The committee has raised issues like to how to encourage voters to use their signature on file to vote or it may be invalidated. Another issue brought up was the polling locations and where to vote day of, as well as the location of early voting. Mr. Newman commented about the bills in front of the legislature now for same day registration for any election are among 5 other election related bills which if passed would go into effect in 2025.

Mr. Newman commented on the statewide board of canvassers group is still in the process of starting. It may be called the Association of Boards of Canvassers. Which he will report any of the discussions from our Elections Training and Advisory Committee to the Association of Boards of Canvassers. Mr. Newman commented that each town/city is structured differently throughout the state and each Board has different tasks asked of them. The discussion of police presence at the polls is also a big topic, some towns/cities have officers assigned to the polls. Some officers do random or regular check-ins. The issue of how officers on detail are compensated, and which town budget would it come from. Another issue is that of finding voters willing to be on Boards, some towns have issues finding members. A discussion ensued. No Action/Vote taken

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Murphy made a motion to adjourn with a second by Mr. Newman. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Newman, Aye; and Mr. Murphy, Aye. Vote Passed Unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Ford', written over a faint horizontal line.

Keith Ford

Deputy Town Clerk/Clerk to the Board of Canvassers

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