

**JAMESTOWN BOARD OF CANVASSERS MEETING MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024**  
**3:00 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL**

A meeting of the Board of Canvassers was called to order at 3:13 P.M. at 93 Narragansett Ave in the Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers. Board of Canvassers Members present were as follows: Ms. Carol Nelson-Lee, Mr. Kenneth Newman, Mr. Hugh Murphy, and Ms. Jennifer Thran. Absent from the meeting were as follows: Ms. Katherine Wineberg.

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

**II. MINUTES**

A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote:

1) Board of Canvassers meeting of September 13, 2024 which was held at 9:30 A.M.

The members of the Board reviewed the minutes from this meeting. Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2024 meeting with a second from Mr. Newman. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Newman, Aye; and Mr. Murphy, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

2) Board of Canvassers meeting of September 13, 2024 which was held at 3:00 P.M.

The members of the Board reviewed the minutes from this meeting. Mr. Newman made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2024 meeting with a second from Mr. Murphy. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Newman, Aye; and Mr. Murphy, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to move agenda item IV. New Business B) Review, Discussion, and/or Action, and/or Vote: Poll Worker pay increase as Ms. Laura Goldstein is here to make a presentation with a second by Mr. Newman. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Newman, Aye; and Mr. Murphy, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

B) Review, Discussion, and/or Action, and/or Vote: Poll Worker pay increase.

1) Elections Training and Advisory Committee Member Laura Goldstein presentation to the Board.

Ms. Nelson-Lee opened the agenda item with welcoming Ms. Laura Goldstein to make a presentation to the Board on increasing poll worker pay. Ms. Goldstein, 35 Calvert Place, sent a correspondence to Ms. Nelson-Lee requesting an increase in poll workers pay in Jamestown. Ms. Goldstein commented that she is on the Jamestown's Elections Training and Advisory Committee and while on the committee Ms. Goldstein reviewed the poll worker payrates for the different cities and towns in Rhode Island and found a great disparity. Ms. Goldstein read the correspondence to Ms. Nelson-Lee to the Board. Ms. Goldstein presented the Board with Poll Worker Pay Rates for 2020 and 2024 from the Board of Elections website. Also presented to the Board was a payrate chart created by Ms. Goldstein outlining payrates and percentages of communities in different pay ranges. Ms. Goldstein also commented that poll worker rates should increase to fifteen (\$15) dollars an hour for Supervisors working election day and sixteen (\$16) dollars an hour for Clerks/Moderators on election day. Training should be twenty-five (\$25) dollars additional per training class as the classes are mandatory.

Mr. Murphy inquired on the use of greeters. Mr. Newman commented that we have used them in the past to assist with lines in previous years. Mr. Newman commented that other cities and towns have issues manning the polls with bi-partisan pairs and in turn have raised their rates to help find workers. *A discussion ensued.* Ms. Nelson-Lee inquired as to when the last time the Board itself increased its stipend. Mr. Newman commented we attempted to with the last budget but with it being a last-minute request was not approved.

Mr. Newman made a motion to support the proposal of poll workers payrate increase going into effect in 2025 with a second by Mr. Murphy. *A discussion ensued.* Mr. Murphy commented that the Board should come back with projected figures for an increase of the Board's stipend to include the additional hours in meetings and additional responsibilities. Ms. Goldstein has commented that her request for pay increases should be presented at the same time as the Board's request for their increase in their stipend. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Nay; Mr. Newman, Nay; and Mr. Murphy, Nay. Vote Did Not Pass.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to combine the proposed poll worker pay increase with more compensation to the Board of Canvassers with a second by Mr. Newman. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Newman, Aye; and Mr. Murphy, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

### III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: The Certification of the Mail Ballot Applications received. Ms. Nelson-Lee opened the agenda item for the Certification of the Mail Ballot Application received. Mr. Ford presented the Board with the mail ballot applications received. The Board reviewed each mail ballot. Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve and certify the mail ballots received with a second by Mr. Newman. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Newman, Aye; and Mr. Murphy, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Polling Place change notification mailing. Ms. Nelson-Lee opened the agenda item of the polling place change notification mailing created by Mr. Ford. Mr. Ford commented that this is the new postcard that will be mailed to all voters in District 1501 since we will no longer be voting at the Philomenian Library location as the Board voted to move back to the Recreation Center. Mr. Murphy made a motion to approving the mailing of the cards to all voters in District 1501 with a second by Mr. Newman. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Newman, Aye; and Mr. Murphy, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

C) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Updates to the November 5, 2024 General Election. Ms. Nelson-Lee opened the agenda item of updates to the November 5, 2024 General Election. Mr. Ford commented that early voting starts tomorrow, the schedule is complete and full. All the equipment for early voting was delivered on last Wednesday and was checked and everything seems to be in working order. Mr. Ford commented that for early voting we have two DS-200's one main and one spare. For Election Day we will only have one DS-200 per precinct and have a back-up with our technician. Mr. Ford commented that on Election Day we will have wheelchairs available at each location for assistance. *A discussion ensued* regarding equipment minimums and the Board of Elections preparations for the 2024 General Elections. A discussion then ensued regarding the Board of Elections not giving or receiving feedback from local boards issues that have or may arise. Mr. Ford will reach out to the Board of Elections to see if it is possible to have two DS-200's at each precinct. No votes or action taken at this time.

D) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: The Town Final Canvass and to correct the voting list for the General Election on November 5, 2024. Ms. Nelson-Lee opened the agenda item for the Final Canvass. Mr. Ford presented the Board Final Canvass list of voters. The Board reviewed the list. Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve and certify the Final Canvass List with a second by Mr. Newman. Vote: Ms. Nelson-Lee, Aye; Mr. Newman, Aye; and Mr. Murphy, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

### V. 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 5:29 P.M.

Attest:



Keith Ford  
Deputy Town Clerk/Clerk to the Board of Canvassers

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