

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Civil Authority
Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Office of the Town Clerk
2460 Vermont Route 14, South Royalton, Vermont 05068

Board members present: Selectboard: Larry Trottier, Peg Ainsworth and Phil Gates. Justices of the Peace: David Ainsworth, Joshua "Bushrod" Powers, Bruce Post, Alison Gravel and Hoyt Bingham. Clerk: Karmen Bascom

Board members absent: Selectboard: Joan Goldstein and Sandra Conrad. Justices of the Peace: William Ballou, Allison Fulcher, Susan Cain, Sandra Conrad and John Dumville.

Public present: none.

The Royalton Board of Civil Authority met on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Office of the Town Clerk. The meeting was called to order by Chair Powers at 7:10 p.m. to discuss and/or act on the following business:

Agenda

I Designate Polling Place for March 7, 2017 Town Meeting

Motion was made and seconded to designate polling place. Discussion: Two requests made; one to hold town meeting at school gym and balloting at new offices, the other to hold meeting and balloting at South Royalton School gym. **Motion to hold meeting and balloting at South Royalton School gym carried; 8 in favor to 1 opposed.**

II Appoint Justices for Absentee Ballot Delivery*

Bushrod Powers and Alison Gravel volunteered to team up and Hoyt Bingham volunteered to be the alternate.

III Decide on Tabulator Usage for Town Meeting*

Motion made and seconded to use tabulator for town meeting. Discussion followed:

Pros being additional practice for staff and townspeople with present mandate for both primary and general elections already in place, consistency of elections and reduced late-hours due to speed of machine. Cons being loss of local governmental control and additional prep costs for programming memory cards (\$500 estimate) and specially designed ballots (\$180 estimate.) **Motion did not carry; 2**

in favor to 6 opposed with one abstention.

IV Updates on New State Law: Same Day Voter Registration

Vermont same day voter registration is now law. It was noted that the State Elections Division is suggesting an additional election official trained to assist with paperwork be available for the first local election to be held now the law is in place.

V Checklist

Conversation regarding the new wording on motor-voter forms the Department of Motor Vehicles now being used have created an influx of additional voter registrations being sent to town clerks for review through the recently updated VEMS system.

VI Public Comments: none.

Respectfully submitted,

Karmen M. Bascom, Royalton Town Clerk