

Lincoln Board of Civil Authority Meeting Minutes

Wed. January 18, 2017

7:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Town Office

Present: David Wetmore, Ilana Brett, Ann Pollender, Bill Finger, David Marsters, James Needham, Sally Ober, Paul Forlenza, Wendy Truax

Vice Chair, David Marsters called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Sally asked to add a few things to the agenda, beginning with announcements.

1. Sally thanked David Wetmore for 20+ years of service to our Town as a BCA member. Dave has been a thoughtful, valuable contributor to our board and we will miss him. Dave did not run again in November, and will be replaced by Jared Buker on Feb. 1.
2. Sally administered the oath of office and oath of allegiance to the re-elected Justices of the Peace: Ilana, Ann, David M., and Wendy.
3. Sally mentioned that Gordon Sadler has appealed our decision to the State Appraiser.
4. Discussion of the Nov. 8th General Election, Sally felt we could be better prepared for running the various processes after the polls close on Election Day. One idea was to assign certain members of the BCA be in charge of different aspects of processing ballots. Sally will set up plans ahead of time, for pairs of election officials to count write-in votes, look through the tabulator processed ballots, or hand-count those which did not go through the tabulator, for example.
5. Further discussion of election workers in general and needing effective helpers during the daytime.
6. Sally pointed out new changes in Election Law, which allows for Election Day Voter Registration as of Jan. 1, 2017. We will need another well-trained election official dedicated to doing this job, hopefully some BCA members will learn how to process voter registrations. Also automatic voter registration has begun, and we are receiving information from the Dept. of Motor Vehicles, every time someone updates their driver's license.

7. Discussion of whether to use the vote tabulator machine in March 2017. Pros: more experience using it (for election officials and voters), cons: cost of programming. Bill made a motion to use the tabulator for the March 7th local election, Wendy seconded. Passed.
8. Discussion of the idea of holding Australian ballot voting at the new town office building.
 - a. Pros and cons included:
 - i. More parking is available at the Town Office than Burnham.
 - ii. Overflow parking may be safer on Quaker St. than River Road.
 - iii. Town office parking lot traffic flow may be more hazardous than at Burnham. We may need a traffic director outside.
 - iv. Switching polling place locations may confuse voters.
 - v. Setting up the polling place may occur earlier in the week before the election, if held at the town office.
 - vi. Break down of the voting booths would not have to occur on Election night, if at the Town Office. After polls close, we could immediately get to the task of counting ballots and reporting results to the press.
 - vii. There are lots of work spaces with good lighting in the new town office for counting ballots.
 - viii. Packing and toting all the election materials to Burnham Hall would be eliminated if at the Town Office.
 - b. Discussion of placing an article on the warning for the 2017 town meeting, allowing the voters to decide.
 - c. Ann made a motion to change the polling place to the town office in March 2018. Dave W. seconded. Passed.
 - d. Bill made a motion to rescind the vote. Paul seconded. Passed.
 - e. **Ann made a motion to change our polling place to the town office building (62 Quaker St.) for the next local election AFTER March 2017, as long as Town Clerk, Sally Ober, deems it appropriate. Ilana seconded. Passed**

9. Discussion of Polling Place Code of Conduct proposed revisions (see attached).
 - a. Bill made a motion to adopt the proposed changes. Dave W. seconded.
 - b. Discussion about campaigning outside the polling place.
 - c. Dave W. made a motion to amend the proposed changes to add in item #3: "10 feet off the sidewalks and parking areas". Seconded by Wendy. Passed.
 - d. Vote on the main motion as amended, passed.
10. Next meeting will be on Wed. March 1, at 7 p.m. at the Town Office. We will go over preparations for the election and probably include an abatement hearing for Bruce Cobb, whose house burned down.
11. Adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sally Ober, Clerk of the BCA