

TOWN OF RICHMOND, RHODE ISLAND
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RICHMOND BOARD OF CANVASSERS
Town Hall – Second Floor Conference Room
May 31, 2016
1:30 P.M.

MINUTES

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Krista Tracy, at 1:30 P.M.

B. Roll Call

Present: K. Tracy and K. Michaud
Also Present: Town Clerk T. Nelson

C. Business

01 Discussion with Robert Kando, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Board of Elections

Mr. Kando is meeting with all 39 cities and towns to discuss the upcoming elections and share experiences from the last election.

New voting equipment should be rolled out for the September Primary and November General Election. The new equipment will offer greater capabilities. With access to wi-fi the results will be transmitted to BOE. Without wi-fi, there is a thumb drive that can be plugged into any machine to transmit results. There will be no more running around with memory packs. There will be a box in the machine that holds the ballots and will come out for easy removal of the ballots. The new ballots will be thinner. The current machine can only read three columns. The new one can read anything, allowing for more information on one page. This could eliminate multiple page ballots. The new ballots will have ovals instead of arrows. The current machines only read the ballot pens provided or number two pencils. The new ones will read anything except green ink. The readers will be interchangeable like the current ones, but they will also have the ability to take photos of the write-ins. There will no longer be two different bins. At the end of the evening, the photo of the write-ins will be displayed on the tape. There will be no more handling the ballots.

The automark was designed to be used with the new ballots. They will be re-calibrated. Hopefully they will read the ballots better now. Also, the ink in the cartridges used now will dry up if not used. The new machines don't need special ink. The cartridge will be inserted at the BOE.

There will be a new device, called the Ballotar, that will allow for ballot-on-demand printing. It may allow for reduced ballot printing. That is uncertain. It still may be more cost effective to print the ballots for the smaller communities.

Mr. Kando expressed concern with poll workers and the learning curve for new equipment. It is up to the local boards to be sure they hire quality poll workers, especially Moderators and Clerks who must know how to operate the new equipment. He encouraged cities and towns to recruit high school students to serve as poll workers.

Mr. Kando thanked the Board members in attendance for taking the time out of their day to meet with him. He realizes Richmond Board members are essentially volunteers.

02 Approval of the minutes of the April 27, 2016 meeting

MOTION made by K. Michaud, second by K. Tracy to approve the minutes as written.

All Ayes

03 Review of upcoming Financial Town Meeting June 13, 2016

T. Nelson advised the FTM will be Monday, June 13, 2016 at 7pm at the Richmond Elementary School. All board members have been asked to arrive between 6:00 and 6:15 P.M. Two members will check in voters, while the third will escort non-registered voters to the restricted area. The board members will give the Town Sergeant the official count at the start of the meeting. Once the meeting has begun, BOC assistance will be required in the event of a standing vote or paper ballot.

D. Public Forum

No public present.

E. Adjournment

MOTION made by K. Michaud, second by K. Tracy to adjourn at 2:25 P.M. until the next meeting of the Board. All Ayes

Minutes approved as written July 26, 2016

Attest: _____
Tracy A. Nelson, Town Clerk