

Watertown Board of Election Commissioners
May 1, 2018

Present: Bonnie Baranowski, Katherine Button, Christopher Dunn, Eugene Slaven, Commissioners; John Flynn, Town Clerk.

Kerry Feltner, reporter for the Watertown TAB, was in the audience.

The meeting came to order at 5:50 PM.

Election of Officers: The Board reorganized for the next year. The new officers are as follows: Chair: Christopher Dunn; Vice-Chair: Katherine Button; Secretary: Eugene Slavin.

Ms. Baranowski stated that she will not seek reappointment when her current term expires on March 31, 2019. Mr. Dunn thanked Ms. Baranowski for her ten years of service on the Board.

The Primary Election will be held September 4. The General Election is November 6. At present, no dates have been set for early voting.

Ms. Baranowski addressed a concern from the 2017 local election about the wording after a name on the ballot. The Massachusetts State Statute on Elections provides rules regarding an eight word statement that a candidate may request printed after his/her name on the ballot. The rules apply to preliminary elections only. The statute is silent about general elections. Ms. Baranowski would like candidates to receive copies of the statute. She also recommended that the Town Attorney give examples of acceptable language.

Mr. Slaven made a motion that, in addition to materials the Town Clerk currently provides potential municipal candidates, a copy of the Massachusetts State Statute on Elections (Part 1, Title VII, Chapter 53, Section 34) be included, and that, prior to the printing of the Municipal Primary Ballots, if any candidates have requested statements added after their names, the Ballots will be submitted to the Town Attorney for review. Mr.: Dunn seconded. All voted in favor.

Ms. Button brought up the possibility of making additions to the Town Charter for the 2020 Charter Review.

Ms. Button made a motion that the Board of Election Commissioners make a reference to the Massachusetts State Statute on Elections (Part 1, Title VII, Chapter 53, Section 34) as part of the 2020 Charter Review. Ms. Baranowski seconded. All voted in favor.

New Voting Machines: Mr. Flynn, Ms. Baranowski, and Town Auditor Mr. Tracy reviewed voting machines approved by the Secretary of State's office. The Town Council has approved the purchase of a series of ImageCast optical scan tabulators distributed by LHS Associates of Salem, NH. The machines are on order. Ms. Baranowski described the ImageCast as "a souped up version" of the old machine. In its day, the AccuVote was considered state-of-the-art. The Secretary of State's office has been notified about retiring the old machines. However, the bases for the old machines can be used during Early Voting for voters to deposit their ballots.

The ImageCast does not use ribbons. New safeguards for voters include a pop-up screen with messages to indicate over-voting.

LHS Associates will provide a training session for the commissioners on June 3, at 3:00 PM. During the week of August 13 there will be training for wardens and clerks.

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to accept the September 25, 2017, Minutes as corrected.

Motion to Adjourn 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Button

Dear Mr. Driscoll and Mr. Sideris;

The Board of Election Commissioners met with the Town Clerk yesterday evening, May 1. The Commission unanimously recommends two actions as a result of the confusion last fall regarding the eight word statement that a candidate may request be place on the ballot.

❖ For the 2019 Municipal Election

- In addition to the materials that the Town Clerk currently provides to potential Municipal candidates, he includes a copy of the Massachusetts State Statue on Elections (Part 1, Title VII, Chapter 53, Section 34).
- Prior to printing of the Municipal Primary Ballots, if any candidates have requested a statement be added, the Ballots will be submitted to the Town Attorney for review.

❖ When the Town Charter is next reviewed, a reference to Massachusetts State Statue on Elections is included in the section on Elections.

The Board also reorganized for the next year, the new officers are:

Chair: Christopher Dunn

Vice-Chair: Katherine Button

Secretary: Eugene Slaven

I informed the Commission that I will not seek reappointment when my current term expired on March 31, 2019.