

CITY OF WATERTOWN
Board of Election Commissioners
April 26, 2022

Present: Commissioners Adam Brewster, Christopher Dunn, Jonathan Hecht and Eugene Slaven; City Clerk & Chief Election Officer Janet M. Murphy, Election Clerk Stephen Addonizio and Head Clerk Noelle Gilligan

Chair Adam Brewster called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Agenda

1. Minutes from the last meeting were unanimously approved

2. Reorganization of Election Commissioners

- Following a brief discussion on rotation protocol, Adam Brewster made a motion to nominate Chris Dunn for Chair.

The motion was unanimously approved.

- Chair Dunn made a motion to nominate Jonathan Hecht for Vice Chair and Eugene Slaven for Secretary.

Both motions were unanimously approved.

3. State Elections

- In preparation for the September 6th primary and Nov 8th general elections, Chief Election Officer Murphy confirmed that she and Election Clerk Addonizio will hold a training session for poll workers in the summer.
- Ms. Murphy informed commissioners that Watertown has purchased Poll Pad machines that will replace the current voter lists (both the in and out books). This digital voter database should significantly simplify the check-in process on Election Day and eliminate the check-out step, which will also reduce the number of poll workers at each precinct from 6 to 4.
- The polling location for Precinct 2 will move from its temporary location at the Hellenic Center back to its original home at the new Hosmer School. Precinct 11 and 12 polling locations will move from the Middle School back to Cunniff and Precinct 7 will now vote at the Middle School.
- The status of early voting, voting by mail and no-excuse absentee voting is expected to be decided by the Commonwealth in the next few months.
- Possible dates for testing machines were tentatively set for August (before the primary) and October (before the general)

4. Miscellaneous

Commissioners discussed a constituent request for either the City Council or the Election Board to issue a proclamation guaranteeing voting rights and voting equity for all Watertown residents. Commissioners unanimously agreed that the Board is not the proper body for issuing a largely symbolic proclamation. A discussion ensued on what is the Board's role in educating the public on voting rights and procedures, at which point a motion was made to gauge the public's interest in the Board hosting a Q&A.

The motion passes 3-1 with Chair Dunn voting Nay.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:25 PM was unanimously approved.

