



**Town of Paxton
Board of Registrars Meeting
April 24, 2023 5:00pm
MINUTES**

Location: Town Hall 697 Pleasant Street, Paxton

Members Present: Laurie Becker, David Stoica, Scott Dziewietin, Jennifer Bridgers

DS called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

LB made a motion to approve the minutes from the 12/12/2022 meeting with correction. SD seconded. All in favor.

Update on VBM and EV in person for the 2023 ATE – 9 VBM and 3 EV in person. LB noted that EV in person was scheduled too early this year. The two issues were that it was stressful to get the ballots in time as we cannot order until the last day to withdraw has passed and we need to leave time for the printer and the Automark cards to be coded. In addition, EV in person occurred before the last day to register to vote causing the voter list to have to be printed twice. If we do EV in person for a local in the future, we need to make sure the dates are later.

VBM potential issues for 2024 - LB explained to the BOR that if the BOS does not approve VBM for a local election and a voter requests a VBM ballot, the town must incur the cost of sending letters to notify them that VBM is not available for this election. With the potential for postcards to be mailed from the state in February 2024 for the Presidential Primary with an option to request a VBM ballot for “all elections” in 2024, there is a potential for 1000’s of letters or ballots needing to be sent including postage.

Election Day Coverage - The BOR discussed coverage of the Town Clerk’s office on Election Day if the Asst. Town Clerk is unavailable. DS is available during the day. JB is available after 3:30pm. SD was flexible.

Update on election worker salaries – Despite a tough budget year for the town, it is currently still on the table to increase Election Worker Salaries for the next fiscal year. Election workers currently get paid \$10, Election Clerk \$10.50 and Warden \$11. The proposed change accounted for in the warrant is \$15.53 for Election Workers, \$16.03 for Election Clerk and \$16.53 for the Warden. This will be dependent on budgets passing at ATM June 5th.

Changes in Budget Line Items Elections/Registrars – LB informed the board that the Town Budget sections 1162 Elections and 1163 Registrars are being merged into one. 1162 will contain Elections/Registrar funds going forward since there is a lot of overlap between the

two. The finance committee discussed removing the BOR Stipends. According to MGL Chapter 51 Section 23, the compensation of the BOR is determined by the selectmen and "a reduction of compensation shall apply only to registrars appointed thereafter." The current board is grandfathered with their current rate of compensation until reappointment. They have 3-year terms. The Town Clerk's stipend for being on the Board of Registrars is set by MGL C. 41 Section 19G.

Update on Laws Concerning Remote Meetings – LB notified the board that a bill was signed extending the ability of boards to hold remote/hybrid meetings through March 31, 2025.

Upcoming Annual Town Meeting- On the agenda it was stated that the warrant for the ATM was closing that night, April 24th. At the meeting it was also stated that the warrant would close that night, April 24th. ** The Board discussed their availability to be at the ATM to check in voters. All members are available to attend the ATM on June 5th. JB will come to be trained on the Poll Pads at the Town Clerk's office on May 16th at 3:30pm.

LB made a motion to close the meeting. JB seconded. All in favor.

The meeting closed at 5:32pm.

Submitted by Laurie Becker, Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Becker".

Paxton Board of Registrars

VBM=Vote by Mail

EV=Early Vote

BOR=Board of Registrars

BOS=Board of Selectmen

**Despite the discussion that the warrant would close 4/24, this was incorrect as the Select Board meeting to close the warrant was scheduled for 4/26. The warrant was later reopened and closed on 5/12.

Minutes approved on 11/17/2023