

Board of Election Commissioners Meeting
Monday, February 23, 2015
6:00 p.m.
Room 401, City Hall

1. Call to Order by the Chairperson
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of the Minutes of the January 12 2015 Meeting

Older Business:

5. Updates concerning polling locations at
 - a. Ward 4, Precinct 4
 - b. Ward 5, Precinct 2
 - c. Ward 6, Precinct 4
 - d. Ward 6, Precinct 5
6. Update concerning the new Election Operations Room
7. Update concerning 2015 Street List Mailing and Responses
8. Update concerning the Commission on Disabilities 2014 polling site visits
9. Update concerning the 2015 Student Civics Camp & Poll Worker program

New Business:

10. Request review and approval of office fees for Fiscal Year 2016
11. Request review and approval of the Request-for-Proposals for acquiring new voting equipment
12. Request permission to explore the possibility of providing public notice for the November 3, 2015 Municipal Election

Adjournment:

Next Meeting Date:

Minutes of Worcester Board of Election Commissioners Meeting, February 23, 2015

Call to order by Chairman Winant at 6:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Joseph Carlson

Commissioner Richard Duffy

Commissioner Diane Mohieldin

Chairman Robert Winant

Commissioners absent:

None

The first order of business was the acceptance of the minutes from the January 12, 2015 meeting. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Old Business

Update Concerning Ward 4, Precinct 4 (Friendly House, 36 Wall Street) – City Clerk Rushford informed the commissioners that we would be able to use the gymnasium at Friendly House on Election Day which eliminates the need to move the polling location to another site.

Update Concerning Ward 5, Precinct 2 (EcoTarium, 222 Harrington Way)– The City Clerk and the Director of Elections are scheduled to visit Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church tomorrow and will report back to the commissioners regarding the suitability of this site for voting. If the site is acceptable it could replace the EcoTarium.

Update Concerning Ward 6, Precinct 4 (Quinsigamond Village Community Center, 16 Greenwood Street) – City Clerk Rushford communicated with The College of the Holy Cross and learned that their upcoming construction project would interfere with access to either the Hogan Center or the Hart Center so that these two locations on the campus were no longer being considered as possible polling locations to replace the Quinsigamond Village Community Center.

Update Concerning Ward 6, Precinct 5 (Greenwood Gardens, 327 Greenwood Street) – The City Clerk and Director of Elections provided data on the number of voters actually residing at Greenwood Gardens (56) and the number that voted in the last Presidential Election (31) and also presented data and photographs of the proposed relocation site at Bethlehem Covenant Church at 46 Greenwood Street. The commissioners agreed that the site was suitable and that a public hearing should be held at the next scheduled meeting in order to receive comments from the voters of 6-5.

Update Concerning New Election Operations Room – City Clerk Rushford said the room would be ready to move in to in about two weeks. He said that going forward, cast ballots that must be retained would be kept in a secure dead storage area.

Update Concerning 2015 Street Listing/Census – The Director of Elections reported that about 2,000 responses had been received as of close of business that day and that 63,965 forms had been mailed to residents.

Update Concerning Commission on Disabilities Report on Polling Locations – City Clerk Rushford reported that a presentation of the report would be held on March 17, 2015 at 4:30pm in the Levi Lincoln Chamber. Commissioner Duffy asked if the City Clerk knew anything about the contents of the report and the Clerk said he did not. Commissioner Duffy objected to the way the site visits were done on Election Day stating that the researchers entered in to areas restricted to voters and poll workers.

Update Concerning 2015 Civics Camp & Poll Worker Program – City Clerk Rushford reported that he was working with Mark Berthiaume , Communication and School Support Coordinator of the Worcester Public Schools, to make sure that the 50 students selected for the program were selected in proportion to the size of their schools so that no school was over-represented by participants in the program.

New Business

Review of office fees for FY 2016 – Commissioners reviewed the proposed fees to be charged for the coming FY for obtaining voter lists, street directories and other election related documents and approved them unanimously after asking a few questions regarding the amount of effort that went in to document preparation.

Review of RFP for New Voting Equipment – Commissioners reviewed the RFP to purchase 53 new voting machines, 50 would be for the 50 precincts and 3 for the anticipated early voting locations which would go in to effect in 2016. Commissioner Carlson had several questions pertaining the response time for repairs on election days, whether a technician would be assigned to City Hall on an election day and how the rating/pricing would be evaluated in these categories. A motion to approve the RFP as written was made by Commissioner Carlson and seconded by Commissioner Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion Regarding Public Notice of November 3, 2015 Municipal Election – City Clerk Rushford and the commissioners discussed the possibility of including election day notices in with property tax bills. Commissioner Mohieldin asked if it was possible to send them out with excise tax bills as more residents owned cars than owned property. However since excise tax bills were usually issued late winter, it might be too early in the election calendar. The City Clerk said the City Manager was receptive to the idea and wanted to assist in any way he could to take advantage of mailings already being sent by the city.

Next Meeting Date: March 30, 2015 6:00 PM.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:09 PM.