

Minutes of Worcester Board of Election Commissioners Meeting, April 30, 2014

Call to order by Vice Chairperson Winant at 6:05 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Joseph Carlson
Commissioner Diane Mohieldin
Commissioner Mary Moule
Commissioner Craig Olson
Commissioner Robert Winant

Commissioners absent:

None

The first order of business was the acceptance of the minutes from the December 4, 2013 meeting. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Organization of the Commission:

Elect Commission Officers for 2014-2015. Commissioner Mohieldin nominated Bob Winant for Chairperson, Commissioner Moule seconded, all voted in favor. Chairperson Winant nominated Commissioner Mohieldin for Secretary, Commissioner Moule seconded, all voted in favor. Chairperson Winant appointed Commissioner Carlson Vice Chairperson and Commissioner Carlson accepted.

Old Business:

Update on Street Listing/Census. City Clerk David Rushford updated the Board on the census returns to date which included 16,400 household forms returned by mail with no changes, 8,543 household forms returned by mail with changes, 800 forms dropped off at city hall and 370 dropped off at the library drop box. Approximately 46% of the forms mailed have been returned to date. All changes submitted to date had been processed by the Election Office.

Update on Certification of Signatures. City Clerk Rushford informed the Board that the Election Office had been very busy certifying signatures for potential candidates for the upcoming state election. He stated that most were being processed the same day but no more than a couple of days from the time they were received. Rushford reminded the Board that residents who sign nomination papers that are certified will be returned to "Active" voter status even if they do not return the census/street listing form.

Update on Hiring a New Assistant Director of Elections. City Clerk Rushford informed the board that 60 applications were received for the opening, of those only 10 were qualified, and of those only 7 would

meet the Worcester residency requirement, and of those only 4 would meet the salary requirement. No decision had been made at this time. Rushford said he would keep the Board posted.

Update on Commonwealth Certification of New Voting Machines. City Clerk Rushford stated that the Commonwealth was ready to approve the 2 new voting machines that had been discussed and under review for several years. He expected that on May 12 the equipment would be approved and the cities and towns would be permitted to purchase it and install it prior to the September 2014 election. He stated that the \$350,000 needed to purchase the equipment had been allocated previously and was ready to use.

Polling Location Discussion. As 3 new Commissioners were present for their first meeting, City Clerk Rushford described the history and thought process behind selecting polling locations as a way of preparing for upcoming hearings on the relocation of two polling locations, 6-4 and 3-2.

New Business:

Set Public Hearings for Relocation of Polling Places. Commissioners agreed that two public hearings could be held at the next scheduled Board of Election Commissioners meeting. One hearing to discuss the relocation of 6-4 from Quinsigamond Village Neighborhood Center to the Hogan Center at Holy Cross College, and the other hearing to discuss the relocation of 3-2 from Belmont Tower Apartments Community Room to the Worcester Art Museum.

Next Meeting Date: June 4, 2014 6pm

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00PM