

MEETING MINUTES

Board of Registrars Meeting

Town Hall, 2nd floor conference room

1 Library Street, Georgetown

February 7, 2023

4PM

Members present: Town Clerk Kerri McManus, Richard Boucher, Paul Rondeau, and Henry Wolf (via Zoom).

The Board of Registrars' meeting was called to order at 4:16PM. Registrar Richard Boucher made a motion to approve minutes from the Board of Registrars' meeting on November 21, 2022, seconded by Registrar Paul Rondeau. No discussion. Motion passes 4-0.

Registrar Henry Wolf made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Registrars, December 5, 2022 recount/meeting. Town Clerk Kerri McManus seconds the motion. No discussion. Motion passes 4-0.

Town Clerk Kerri McManus presented an overview of the changes to Vote by Mail and In-Person Early Voting as it relates to local elections. Vote by Mail is allowed for local elections, unless the Selectmen "opt-out" each year. A recommendation by the Board of Registrars to the Selectmen is not required.

Prior to the local election of 2024, the State will be sending VBM card applications to all voters, if the voter selects "all elections" this would include Annual Town Election for 2024. Based on historical VBM requests, it's estimated that we would have approximately 2,000 requests for VBM for the local election. These requests would increase costs associated with the local elections, as the State will not reimburse for those mailing/ printing/ processing costs.

Registrar Boucher makes the motion to recommend to the Selectmen to "opt-out" of vote by mail for the May 8, 2023 Annual Town Election, citing concerns over the costs the town shall incur. Registrar Rondeau questions if disabled residents will have an option to vote by mail. Town Clerk McManus explains that absentee voting will still be an option for those that qualify. In order to qualify, to absentee vote by mail the voter must be away from city/ town on Election Day; have a disability that keeps them from voting at their polling place, or have a religious belief that prevents them from voting at their polling location on Election Day. Registrar Wolf seconds the motion to opt out of vote by mail for the May 8, 2023 Municipal Election. Motion passes 4-0.

Discussion turns to "Opting-in" to In-person Early Voting. Town Clerk McManus explains In-person Early Voting is not required for local elections unless the Selectmen vote to "opt-in" upon recommendation from at least 50% of the Board of Registrars.

Town Clerk, McManus makes a motion to recommend holding a one day In-Person Early voting session for Friday, April 21, 2023 from 9AM to 2PM at Town Hall, which coincides with the last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Election. Registrar Boucher seconds the motion, with the stipulation that a

police detail can be hired during the In-person Early Voting hours, for safety, as no other office will be open that day. Motion passes 4-0.

Town Clerk, Kerri McManus informs the Board that she will present these recommendations in a Public Hearing at the Monday, April 13, 2023 Board of Selectmen's meeting for them to vote and makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Registrar Rondeau. Meeting adjourned at 4:38PM.