

Board of Election Commissioner Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2015
6:00 p.m.
Esther Howland Chamber, City Hall

1. Call to Order by the Chairperson
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of the Minutes of the November 17, 2014 Meeting

Older Business

5. New Elections Operations Room
6. Poll Worker Payroll Improvements
7. Polling Location Updates:
 - Ward 4, Precinct 4
 - Ward 5, Precinct 2
 - Ward 6, Precinct 4
 - Ward 6, Precinct 5Scheduling of Hearings for proposed changes
8. Status of 2015 Street List Mailing
9. Status of New Voting Equipment
10. Election Day Transportation Challenge

New Business

11. Mailing to Dropped Voters
12. Spring 2015 Civics Camp

Adjournment:

Next Meeting Date:

Minutes of Worcester Board of Election Commissioners Meeting, January 12, 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

The first order of business was the acceptance of the minutes from the November 14, 2014 meeting. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Old Business

New Elections Operation Room – City Clerk Rushford says work is substantially underway and he would like to bring the commissioners to tour the room after the meeting concludes.

Poll Worker Payroll Improvements – Commissioner Carlson stated that it took up to 30 days for some of the poll workers to get paid after the election and wanted to know what could be done about it. City Clerk Rushford said going forward the clerk's office would prepare the payroll ahead of the election and just cancel the individuals who do not show up to work. City Clerk Rushford apologized for the previous delays.

Status of 2015 Street Listing/Census Mailing – City Clerk Rushford said mailing would go out around February 13, 2015.

Status of New Voting Equipment – Two machines have been approved by the Secretary of State so the selection will be entirely based on pricing. Commissioner Mohieldin asked if the service contract for these machines would be included in the bid process. City Clerk Rushford said the machines would be covered for a warranty period but that the vendor would not give us a quote for service as part of the RFP for the equipment itself. Current service contract with LHS is about \$7,000 per year for the AccuVote machines. The RFP will include a service commitment in terms of response time on Election Day. Commissioner Duffy inquired about the electronic display and start instructions on the new machines. Assistant Director of Elections Niko Vanjgeli explained what he had seen during the demos of the new machines.

Election Day Transportation Challenges – City Clerk Rushford spoke to Steve O'Neil of the WRTA and they decided that a vehicle would be reserved for the use of a wheel chair bound voter if a call came in for assistance on Election Day.

New Business

Mailing to Dropped Voters – Sent to voters with no activity for 4 years, a state approved card will be mailed to voters that week to advise them that they will be dropped from the voter's list.

Spring 2015 Civics Camp – School Superintendent has approved running the civics camp. Juniors will be recommended by their teachers for participation in the program. The camp will be held during April vacation and the students will be working as poll workers in the fall elections.

Update on Relocation of 4-4, 5-2, 6-4 & 6-5 – City Clerk Rushford said that Gordon Hargrove, Executive Director of Friendly House (4-4) has agreed to possibly allow the city to use the gymnasium on Election Day to alleviate the challenges of much smaller room currently used in their facility. This change should address all of the current complaints related to this polling location if it is allowed. City Clerk Rushford asked that the Commission wait on a response from Mr. Hargrove before considering another polling location.

Regarding 5-2, City Clerk Rushford says he has not been in touch with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 256 Hamilton Street, yet this year. He asked that the commissioners visit any proposed new location in advance of having a hearing on a polling location change. He said he would make contact with the pastor of the church before the next meeting.

Regarding 6-4, City Clerk Rushford still recommends going to the Hogan Center at Holy Cross. He believes it is the best option. Commissioner Mohieldin asked that the Hart Center be considered in place of the Hogan Center, if the City Clerk planned to speak to the college again about providing a polling location.

Regarding 6-5, City Clerk Rushford felt reluctant to move the location out of a Worcester Housing Authority complex but believed that the location is unusually tight, and that there is not the same density of voters in the complex as there are in other public housing communities. He did not think that 6-5 should be moved until 6-4 is addressed.

For next meeting City Clerk Rushford committed to having an answer on 4-4 and 5-2 from the facility owners/operators and to have the heat maps for the 6-4 & 6-5 polling locations, along with the data on the number of voters in these locations.

Next Meeting Date: February 23, 2015 6:00 PM.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:57 PM.

After the public meeting adjourned, all Commissioners present for the meeting visited the new election room in the basement of City Hall where they observed the progress of the construction, reviewed the floor plan and asked questions about finishes and security in the new space.