

Board of Civil Authority Meeting
20 December 2023
6:01 PM
Town Office at Isle La Motte School and via Zoom

In Attendance: Allen Hall, Cathy Tudhope, Vickie Buswell, Cary Sandvig, Debbie Langlois, Sylvia Jensen, Anne Jobin-Picard, Joe Deller, Michael Frett (*The Islander*), Mary-Catherine Graziano (via Zoom), Bobby Dean (via Zoom), Jen Wayboda (via Zoom), Charles Gurney (via Zoom) Carmine Centrella (via Zoom), Pat Treckman (via Zoom), Alex Montagne (via Zoom), Steve Foley (via Zoom), Andrea Carbone

1. **Call to Order**: Meeting was called to order at 6:19 PM by Allen Hall.
2. **Additions to agenda**: There were no additions to the agenda.
3. **2024 Elections Discussion**:
 - *Review Municipal Calendar - December - March* - A brief review of the calendar indicated a number of approaching deadlines and that the Town Clerk would need support as this will be the first election cycle for the new administration. Cathy Tudhope noted that ink will need to be restocked before each election.
 - *Vote on Tabulator Use at 2024 Elections* - Cathy Tudhope motioned for the Town to use electronic tabulators for the collection and counting of votes, seconded by Vickie Buswell, all in favor.
 - *Mailing of Absentee Ballots* - A discussion of the mailing absentee ballots to all residents was held. Allen Hall noted his concern over the blanket mailing of ballots to all residents due to the possibility of voter fraud within households; absentee ballots were intended to be requested by those that could not vote in person, not as an option for everyone now that the pandemic has subsided. Jen Wayboda asked if there was an established set of guidelines to follow, to which Cathy Tudhope noted a new elections handbook had just been issued for 2024. Furthermore, Ms. Tudhope noted that this conversation applies to the Town ballot only; presidential election ballots will be sent out by the State. Mary-Catherine Graziano stated that while it was not mandated that absentee ballots be issued to all residents, she supported the practice which provides the opportunity to vote to residents pressed for time. Cary Sandvig noted that there will be a cost to send the ballots to all homes. Sylvia Jensen noted that the use of absentee ballots is critical for residents in rural communities who may be overtly impacted by long commutes and unexpected delays, so the ability to have voted from home ensures that residents may participate in this essential American privilege and duty. Additional discussion was held regarding the security of elections and means and methods to ensure all residents vote only once. A motion was made to send out absentee ballots to every registered voter by Cathy Tudhope, seconded by Cary Sandvig; the motion was passed by a vote of four to one with Allen Hall voting against the motion.
 - *Discuss Elections Onboarding for Town Clerk and Assistant* - Ms. Tudhope will review the 2024 elections guidelines and meet with Vickie Buswell. Ms. Buswell announced that she has registered for three Town Meeting and elections training sessions. The Board noted that the tabulator company will send a representative to train the Clerk on the equipment, should that be desired.
4. **Other Business**: There was no additional business to discuss.
5. **Adjourn**: Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM, motioned by Cathy Tudhope, seconded by Cary Sandvig, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted on 23 December 2023 -
Andrea Carbone

Allen Hall

Cathy Tudhope

Vickie Buswell

Mary-Catherine Graziano

Cary Sandvig