



**Town of Paxton  
Board of Registrars Meeting  
December 12, 2022 5:00pm  
MINUTES**

Location: Town Hall 697 Pleasant Street, Paxton

Members Present: Laurie Becker, David Stoica, Scott Dziewietin, Jennifer Bridgers

DS called the meeting to order at 5:23pm.

LB made a motion to approve the minutes from the 11/20/2022 meeting. JB seconded. All in favor.

The Board discussed election worker salaries stipend vs. hourly wages and the potential for an increase in their wages. Currently they are paid \$10-\$11 an hour depending on their position. A wage study from the MTCA was conducted for poll workers. LB also provided a document showing the actual cost of past elections and how potential wage increases would affect cost. These documents were shared with the board and are on file with the minutes of the Board of Registrars. JB questioned when wages for election workers were last reviewed/changed. The answer was not found, but it has not been reviewed during LB's tenure. \*

SD made a motion to recommend hourly wages (not stipends). LB 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor. SD made a motion to recommend increasing Election worker wages to \$15, Election Clerk wage to \$15.50 and Election Registrar to \$16/hr. LB 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

There was a discussion of the new election laws (Reference Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022). The new law states that Vote by Mail exists for local elections unless the Town opts out. The authority for the ultimate decision lies with the BOS. The BOR will make a recommendation to the BOS. The board discussed the pros and cons with the main con being cost factors and the main pro being to encourage voting.

LB made a motion to recommend not opting out of VBM for the 2023 ATE. SD 2<sup>nd</sup>. LB, SD, DS voted favorably, JB against.

There was discussion about opting into EV in person for the 2023 ATE. This action requires an affirmative vote of both the BOR and BOS to occur. The board again discussed the pros and cons. The main pro again being to encourage voting. The main con is extra work with historically low turn-out. SD made a motion to opt into EV in person for the 2022 ATE. DS seconded. DS and SD voted in favor. LB and JB voted unfavorably. The law reads, "Such vote may only be taken after a request from not less than 50 percent of the registrars of the city or

town recommending in-person early voting; provided, however, that such vote shall occur not less than 5 business days prior to the proposed beginning of early voting.” Since 2 is not less than 50% this will be recommended to the BOS.

After realizing that we had voted on the wrong year, a revision was made to the original vote. SD amended his motion to opt into EV in person for the 2023 ATE. LB 2<sup>nd</sup>. All voted in favor of amending the year of the previous motion from 2022 to 2023.

LB made a motion to propose to the BOS the following hours for EV for the 2023 ATE:

Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 12-2pm and Friday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 10-4pm

SD 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

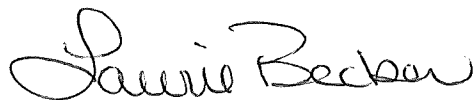
The Board discussed availability to stuff envelopes for the 2023 Census. JB is unavailable. Anyone available is encouraged to come on December 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual Town Meeting is May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Board plans to meet before the ATM. The next BOR meeting was scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

SD made a motion to close the meeting. DS seconded. All in favor.

The meeting closed at 6:43pm.

Submitted by Laurie Becker, Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Becker".

Paxton Board of Registrars

\*Note: After the meeting Donna Graf-Parsons reviewed payroll. The wages were increased from \$8.50 to \$10.00 per hour in 2018.

Minutes approved 4/24/2024