

RI STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MINUTES OF MEETING

NOVEMBER 12, 2004

The Rhode Island State Board of Elections met at 9:00 a.m. A quorum included Chair Roger Begin, Vice Chair Thomas Iannitti, Commissioners Judith Bailey, John Daluz, and Raymond Xavier. Acting Executive Director George Bowen, III and Counselor Raymond Marcaccio were in attendance, also.

First Order Of Business: The Members certified and tabulated Braille Ballots which were cast in the November 2, 2004 General Election. The State Board received the Braille Ballots with the election supplies from the various local canvassing authorities.

Next Order Of Business: The Board conducted a re-feeding of the ballots for Warwick precinct #3547 due to a memory pack failure on election day. At the conclusion of the refeeding, the Board determined that there were no changes in the outcome of the races in said precinct. (Note: It was determined that a power surge had caused a problem with the memory pack in this one precinct. The surge had no affect on the paper tape totals or results of the election totals. A manual count was conducted so that the memory pack and paper tape totals would coincide.)

Upon completion of the refeeding of the Warwick ballots, Vice Chair

Iannitti commented that all scanners should have surge protectors and battery backup packs to avoid future problems like the one in precinct #3547.

Next Order Of Business: The Board discussed budgetary matters. The Members discussed the possibility of using HAVA monies when implementing some programs mandated by the federal government. Certain staffing and legal costs could be offset with HAVA funds.

The Members discussed putting monies in this budget to update the agency's records with regard to advisory opinions issued by the State Board. Vice Chair Iannitti commented that the update of the Board's opinions/rules/regulations might be expensive, now, but the costs should taper off. All Members agreed that it is important to be working with up-to-date information.

Acting Director Bowen offered that the Budget Office ("Budget") is enforcing, on most agencies, a 10% reduction in budgetary costs, however, Budget is not imposing this reduction on the Board of Elections.

Next Order Of Business: Citing RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(2), the Board voted to convene into executive session to discuss a potential legal claim. The motion, made by Vice Chair Iannitti and seconded by Commissioner Daluz, carried unanimously.

At 11:30 a.m. and upon completion of the Board's discussion, Commissioners Bailey and Xavier, respectively, made and seconded a motion to end the executive session, to seal the minutes and to go back into open session. The motion carried without opposition.

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In open session, Vice Chair Iannitti made a motion that the records show that there was no formal action taken at this time on the subject matter discussed in the executive session and that the Board will continue to confer and discuss said matter at a later date. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Bailey, carried without opposition.

Next Order Of Business: The Board assembled in the building's lower level to test optical scanners to be used in the Tiverton Referendum Election to be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2004. Upon completion of the testing, the Board declared the voting equipment ready for delivery.

Before adjourning for the day, Acting Executive Director Bowen notified the Members that recounts would begin on Monday, November 15, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

At 11:40 a.m. and without further discussion, Chair Begin asked that a motion be made to adjourn for the day and to reconvene on November 15th for the purpose of conducting recounts with regard to the November 2, 2004 General Election. Vice Chair Iannitti made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Xavier. The motion passed without opposition.

ATTEST:

Frances A. Keating, Coordinator, Special Projects