

**R. I. STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
January 11, 2012**

The Rhode Island State Board of Elections convened at 3:32 PM at the Rhode Island Board of Elections, a quorum included, Chairman Frank Rego, Vice-Chairman Richard Pierce, Commissioners William West, Susan Farmer, and Florence Gormley. Commissioner Richard DuBois arrived after the first agenda item. Executive Director Robert Kando and Board legal counsel Raymond Marcaccio were also in attendance.

First order of business: Commissioner Farmer moved to approve the minutes for Board of Elections meetings dated 11/8/11 and 11/16/11, seconded by Vice-Chairman Pierce and passed unanimously.

Next order of business: The appeal of campaign finance fines in the amount of \$26,077 by Roger Harris. After a series of questions by the Board to Mr. Harris and Campaign Finance Director Ric Thornton regarding notices sent, Mr. Harris, who is disabled stated that he was willing to pay what he could, but that his income was limited. Commissioner Gormley moved to reduce his fine to 10% and that Ric Thornton should arrange an acceptable payment schedule, seconded by Commissioner Farmer and passed with Commissioner DuBois dissenting.

Next order of business: The appeal of campaign finance fines in the amount of \$5,528 by former representative Raymond Sullivan, Jr. who stated that while he was an officeholder, his reports were generally filed on time or a few days late by campaign members, but that once he left office, the assistance stopped and because he moved twice, and no longer intended to seek office he did not file the required reports.

After several questions to Mr. Sullivan from the Board, Commissioner Gormley moved to reduce his fine to 25%, and was seconded by Commissioner Farmer. The motion failed with Commissioner Gormley in favor and 4 opposed. A second motion by Vice-Chairman Pierce, seconded by Commissioner DuBois to deny the request was passed 3 in favor with Commissioner Gormley voting in the negative and Commissioner Farmer abstaining.

Next order of business: Appeal of campaign finance fines in the amount of \$13,903 by Theodore Vecchio, Jr. Mr. Vecchio stated that his campaign spent \$820 which represented the amount that he had loaned his campaign. Commissioner Gormley moved to reduce the fines to 25% that includes a payment schedule and an acceleration clause for the full amount as determined after meeting with Ric Thornton, seconded by Commissioner Farmer and passed unanimously.

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Next order of business: Appeal of campaign finance fines in the amount of \$35,474 by Elizabeth Tetreault who has filed reports indicating that she has not received any contributions. Commissioner Gormley moved to reduce the fines to 25%, with a **R. I.** schedule of payments agreed to by Ric Thornton including an acceleration clause for the full amount, seconded by Commissioner Farmer and passed unanimously with Vice-Chairman Pierce noted that his vote does not set a precedent.

Next order of business: An appeal of campaign finance fines in the amount of \$77,802 by Michael James Rollins who has not filed the required reports at the time of the meeting. After a lengthy discussion between Mr. Rollins and the Board, Vice-Chairman Pierce moved to deny the request, seconded by Commissioner Gormley and passed unanimously.

Next order of business: Appeal of campaign finance fines in the amount of \$39,230 by Donna Hayden, who was not present and is currently residing in Florida. After discussing her appeal letter and hearing input from Campaign Finance Director Ric Thornton, Commissioner Gormley moved to reduce the fines to 25%, with a schedule of payments agreed to by Ric Thornton including an acceleration clause for the full amount, seconded by Commissioner Farmer and passed unanimously.

Next order of business: Hearing and possible vote to approve the proposed adoption of Rules and Regulations for Local Canvassing Authorities-Party Affiliation. Louise Phaneuf from the Burrillville Board of Canvassers, Mary B. Hall from the Town of Exeter Board of Canvassers and Rosemay Thomas of the Smithfield Board of Canvassers testified that a number of members of their boards were unaffiliated and that it was difficult to find voters willing to serve on the boards.

Members of the Board of Elections discussed the language of the statute and were advised that a specific requirement included affiliation to become a member of the canvassing board and the language of the statute guaranteed that at least two parties had members on the canvassing authority. Commissioner Gormley moved to approve the rule and regulation, seconded by Commissioner West and passed unanimously.

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Next order of business: Hearing and possible vote to repeal Rules and Regulations for Same Day Registration and Voting (ERLID #5300). The Board was informed that a recent statutory change that allowed local boards of canvassers to designate an alternate location for same day voter registration when its city/town hall was determined to be inadequate made the regulation moot. At the close of the discussion Commissioner Gormley moved to repeal the regulation, seconded by Commissioner DuBois and passed unanimously.

Next order of business: Hearing and possible vote to repeal Rules and Regulations for Public Financing of Campaigns for Candidates for General Offices (regulations pursuant to 17-25-18 through 17-25-29) (ERLID #4379). The Board was informed that the regulation was outdated due to a recent statutory change. Commissioner Gormley moved to repeal the regulation, seconded by Commissioner Farmer and passed unanimously.

Next order of business: Approval of the meeting calendar for 2012. Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner DuBois, moved for approval, and it was passed unanimously.

Next order of business: Vote to elect a new chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Board of Elections pursuant to R.I.G.L 17-7-3(a). Commissioner Gormley motion to elect Frank Rego as Chairman for the next term and seconded by Commissioner Richard Pierce was passed unanimously. Commissioner Gormley motion to elect Commissioner Pierce as Vice Chairman for the next term, seconded by Commissioner DuBois was passed unanimously.

At 5:15 PM Commissioner Gormley moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner West, and passed unanimously.

Andreza Skipworth