

R. I. STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 8, 2013

The Rhode Island State Board of Elections convened at 3:50 PM at the Rhode Island Board of Elections, a quorum included, Chairman Frank Rego, Commissioners William West, Florence Gormley, Martin Joyce and Richard DuBois, Executive Director Robert Kando and Board legal counsel Raymond Marcaccio were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rego.

First order of business: Moment of Silence in Memory of Commissioner Susan Farmer.

Next order of business: Commissioner Gormley moved to approve the minutes for Board of Elections meeting dated 9/10/13, seconded by Commissioner Dubois. Chairman Rego, Commissioners Gormley, West, Joyce and DuBois voting in the affirmative, no dissenting votes. Motion Passed

Next order of business: Renewal of the Quest Information Systems agreement providing technical support for the Electronic Reporting and Tracking System. Director Robert Kando detailed that Quest had developed the system and has provided support since its development, and that Quest has offered a discount for a four-year term, rather than the two-year term. Campaign Finance Director Richard Thornton supported the four-year term citing the cost savings.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Gormley moved to authorize the execution of the contract for four years, seconded by Commissioner DuBois. Chairman Rego, Commissioner West, Gormley, Joyce and DuBois voted affirmatively. No dissenting votes. Motion Passed

Next order of business: Director Kando informed the Board that the budget draft for fiscal year 2015 was the product of meeting with the division heads who based their recommendations on the previous election cycle budget. He noted that since the budget was originally drafted and sent to the Board Members, the Division of Information Technology had visited the Board and recommended the replacement and upgrade of computers, software and servers, and provided an estimate of \$60,000 for fiscal year 2015.

Commissioner Joyce moved to endorse the budget, to include the Division of Information Technology's recommendation, and seconded by Commissioner West. Chairman Rego, and Commissioners Gormley, DuBois, West and Joyce voting in the affirmative, with no dissents. Motion Passed

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Next order of business: The Board held a workshop session on possible campaign finance regulations to address the mounting amount of uncollected fines. Director Kando informed the Board that the staff had drafted an outline of a possible amnesty regulation that had been discussed with Legal Counsel Raymond Marcaccio and that the workshop was to get input from the Board with respect to the regulation or any other ideas that the Board may support.

Commission Gormley stated that the fines were out of control and something needed to be done similar to an amnesty that the Board had years ago. Commissioner West said that candidates should be responsible and follow the laws, but agreed that fines had become unmanageable and some action should be taken. Chairman Rego said that any regulation should require Board approval for all persons before any reduction or amnesty. Attorney Marcaccio suggested that the Board hear from candidates who have fines pending who wish to appear and that those that do not appear could be presented the staff for consideration by the Board, therefore allowing for a review of the full list of candidates who have outstanding fines.

The workshop concluded with an assignment for the staff to develop a regulation, in conjunction with legal counsel, using the discussion as a guide in its preparation.

Commissioner Joyce was not present for the workshop

At 4:47 PM, Commissioner Gormley moved to adjourn seconded by Commissioner West. . Chairman Rego, and Commissioners Gormley, DuBois, and West voting in the affirmative, with no dissents. Motion Passed

Andreza Skipworth