

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
COUNTY OF NEWPORT**

The Board of Canvassers of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Meeting at the Tiverton Town Hall, 343 Highland Road on Thursday May 20, 2014 at 6:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Bobby J Harris-absent
Member Paul Amaral-present
Alternate Jean Veegh-absent
Clerk Lori Roy-present

Vice Chair DeEtta Moran-present
Town Clerk-Nancy Mello-present
Clerk Kathleen Wood-present

Vice Chair Ms. Moran called the meeting to order at 6:02 a.m.

This meeting consists of conducting the FTR election throughout the day and assisting with polls and issues that arise.

1. Review and Approve minutes:

- The minutes for May 14th and May 15th were not yet ready for review.

2. Conduct Financial Town Referendum:

- Ms. Mello reported to the Board that the Eagle being delivered to the V.F.W. on May 19th by the D.P.W. workers fell off the truck and was damaged. Ms. Mello and Ms. Wood brought the spare Eagle to the V. F.W. and ran a test as directed by Steve Taylor at the Board of Elections. The equipment was operating properly. The State Board of Elections will bring a replacement Eagle at noon today. Ms. Mello will discuss with the Town Administrator any issues regarding assistance of equipment delivery and set up at polling locations using DPW. Board of Election is upset with the damage and may be charging us up to \$5000 to replace the equipment.
- In response to an inquiry into the processing of the mail ballots and absentee voting ballots, Ms. Mello described the process. The ballots placed in the absentee voting Eagle at Town Hall are not tallied until 8:00 p.m. on election night. On Election evening, the mail ballots are opened by a Board member, or an employee of the Town Clerk's office. Immediately upon opening the envelope, the ballots are separated from the envelope and fed into the Eagle by a different Board member. At the polling locations, the moderator removes the ballots from the Eagle ballot box and places them in the blue metal case, which is then sealed with the numbered seal provided by the Board of Canvassers. The only voted ballots that are examined would be mail ballots processed by the Board of Canvassers that were rejected by the Eagle. Those would be manually counted by the Board to determine the voter's intent, and then tallied together with all other votes.

3. Board Member Items:

Ms. Moran stated that changing the Charter to have the FTR to Saturday all day, might eliminate the problem of equipment delivery. Ms. Mello mentioned that for statewide elections, the Board of Elections delivers the equipment too early to the polling locations. That allows more of a chance for equipment to be damaged or moved by the owners of the private polling locations. This will be an ongoing issue to discuss.

4. To Consider Such Other Business as May Lawfully Come Before the Board:

- The board received 1 emergency absentee ballot application. Ms. Moran made a motion and Mr. Amaral seconded the motion to certify the application. The motion passed unanimously.
- The meals for the poll workers supper will be picked up at McGovern’s Restaurant at approximately 4:30p.m. and delivered to the polling locations

The Board continued the meeting until 7:00 p.m. when they will meet to begin the processing of the Mail Ballots.

All Board members and clerks went to different locations to assist in closing the polls. All material was brought back to the Town Hall and the Clerks separated.

Brief discussion on minor issues at the polls. Further discussion will be at future meeting. One voter not shown as registered on the poll book was referred to the Town Hall for verification claiming she registered at DMV (Triple A). Information was not forwarded to our office from the S.O.S. CVRS system. We were able to print the motor voter report indicating that she had been there with a Y for yes under column listed as motor voter. This will all need to be discussed with S.O.S. office.

Following discussion a motion was made by P. Amaral, seconded by D. Moran allowing the voter to cast a ballot. Motion passed unanimously. Voter was required to fill out an affirmation form.

Clerk’s office will continue follow-up on this issue.

5. Mail Ballot Processing

There were 19 absentee mail ballots and 1 emergency ballot. Clerk Wood opened the ballot envelopes and compiled the 20 ballots for the Board members to place in the Eagle used for absentee balloting. There were 7 ballots that were rejected stating blank ballot. It appears the pens used to mark the ballots were not being recognized by the Eagle. The 7 ballots were then counted manually and added to the total tally sheet.

The next Board of Canvassers meeting will be Thursday, May 22nd at 10:30 a.m. to certify the election results.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by P. Amaral and seconded by D. Moran. The motion passed unanimously. The Board adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Bobby Harris Chair _____ absent _____ DeEtta Moran, Vice Chair _____

Paul Amaral, member _____ Jean Veegh, Alternate _____ absent _____

A True Copy: Attest _____ Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk