

Board of Civil Authority
Bennington, VT

Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2023

Members Present: Cassie Barbeau, Barbara Bluto, Jeanne Conner, William Greer, Tom Haley, Jackie Kelly, Albert Krawczyk, Vickie Lampron, Bruce Lee-Clark, BJ Maroney, James Marsden, Anne Mook, Joan Pinsonneault, David Shaffe and Kayla Thompson

**Meeting called to order by Town Clerk, Cassie Barbeau, at 4:32PM.

**Cassie read the oath to Board members who haven't taken it since being reelected and circulated forms for signatures.

**Anne Mook made the motion to elect David Shaffe as Board Chair, seconded by Barbara Bluto, motion passed unanimously. There were no additional nominations. With that, Cassie turned the meeting over to newly elected Chair, David Shaffe.

**Cassie made the motion to elect Jim Marsden as vice-chair, seconded by Al Krawczyk, motion passed unanimously.

**Bruce made the motion to have the Town Meeting polling hours set at 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, seconded by Tom Haley, motion passed unanimously.

**Cassie made the motion to have Michele Hogan as the presiding officer of the North Bennington polling place, seconded by Tom Haley, motion passed unanimously.

**Cassie gave an update on the biennial challenge process. She and Kayla sent out just under 2,000 letters to voters. Cassie reminded board members, voters must respond do the letter or will remain on the checklist for two more general elections of inactivity before being removed from the checklist.

**There was general discussion regarding the Town and School elections and the difficulties finding candidates to run for the school boards. There are several positions going unfilled on the ballots this year.

**Cassie made the Board aware of the bill in the Legislature for Ranked Choice Voting for the Presidential Primary and the difficulties it may cause with voter confusion. Education of the process is key and rushing it through to implementation may not be most appropriate. Several Board members gave pros and cons and situations that may come of it. The bill will be watched as it progresses.

**With no further business, Tom made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Bruce. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassandra Barbeau
Bennington Town Clerk

