

Minutes of the Worcester, Massachusetts Board of Election Commissioners

November 21, 2011

Call to Order by Chair Dube at 5:35p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Chairperson Mary Anne Dube  
Commissioner Robert Winant  
Commissioner Diane Mohieldin  
Commissioner David LaPierre  
Commissioner John Goggins

Commissioners absent:

None

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the October 4, 2011 meeting and the vote to accept them was unanimous.

Old Business:

Mr. Rushford provided an update in the High School Deputy Inspector program utilized during the November 8 election. 28 of the 31 students trained participated in the program. The overall response from the public, the poll workers who worked with the students, and members of the board who observed the students was very positive. Mr. Rushford has asked the board to entertain follow up with this program to encourage further student participation in the process. This will be taken up as an agenda item for the next board meeting.

The next item of old business concerned follow up on the letter from the Woburn City Clerk requesting the board endorse and encourage the City Council to endorse HR 1972. An opinion on the legislation had been requested from City

Solicitor Moore but Mr. Rushford reported he was ill and unable to attend the meeting. He will be requested to provide an opinion for the next meeting.

The third item of old business was a follow up on the issue of members of politically active organizations wearing tee shirts within polling locations and campaign material within buildings housing polling locations. The focus of the discussion revolved around campaign material from the organization Neighbor to Neighbor that endorsed specific candidates and encouraged voters to vote for them being found within 150 feet of the polling locations at the Worcester Senior Center during the November 8<sup>th</sup> election. The material had been discovered by the police officer in attendance at the Senior Center and turned in to the Election Commission office at the end of Election Day. A sample of this literature is attached. In addition, an observer at 10-3 provided testimony that he had observed pre-marked ballots and campaign material being clearly displayed in the polling location along with a sample of the material as well as photographs. This material is also attached. In both cases, the Board determined the police officer at the Senior Center and the poll officers at 10-3 had taken proper actions to rectify the situations. In addition, the Board has requested that the next round of training for the 2012 elections emphasize that election officers should perform multiple sweeps of their respective locations throughout the day to make sure no campaign material is within the 150 foot limit and has requested that any political organization that distributes campaign material emphasize to its members or others who may distribute such material be made aware of the restrictions on such material.

New business:

The first item of new business was the opening of overseas absentee ballots. One ballot had been received from overseas. It was opened in the presence of the Board and Mr. Meduna recorded the results.

The second item of new business concerned the expected recount of the School Committee race. Mr. Meduna has certified the recount request and it has been scheduled for 9 a.m. on November 28, 2011 in the Levi Lincoln Chamber at Worcester City Hall.

The third item of new business concerned the communication from Neighbor to Neighbor regarding concerning the September preliminary election. Mr. Rushford noted that the information provided in the report was related to the previous discussion under old business. The information in the communication

was utilized to update the procedures described in the opening letter and to monitor those areas that were mentioned in the communication.

The last item of new business was a discussion of the re-precincting and the plans for updating the street listings. Mr. Rushford described the remaining steps needed to finish up the redrawing of the precincts and Mr. Meduna described the steps that will be taken to notify the households affected by the changes. Mr. Meduna then described the steps to be taken to update the street listings prior to the March, 2011 Primary.

The date for the next meeting will be discussed at the recount.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Addendum: The next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.