

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY

May 9, 2016

Immediately following the Board for the Abatement of Taxes meeting, Chair Elliott Greenblott at 7:25 P.M., on May 9, convened a meeting of the Board of Civil Authority in the Selectboard Meeting Room. BCA members present included Justices of the Peace: Jane Buckingham, Diane Cooke, Elliott Greenblott, Don Long, Lee Madden, Sharry Manning, Robert Oeser, Gail Speno, Ben Underhill, Beverly Webster and Veronica Wheelock; Town Clerk Annette Cappy. Also present: Marshall Wheelock.

At the Board's February 18th meeting members discussed the inadequacies of holding the November election in the Selectboard Meeting Room. While all acknowledged that for the vast majority of elections it was sufficient, the higher voter turnout of a General election would prohibit the use of the usual space. A committee was formed to examine other potential locations. The committee toured the American Legion on Linden Street and the VFW on Black Mountain Road. All members were already familiar with the facility at the Brattleboro Union High School.

Chair Elliott Greenblott reported the following:

- Dimensions - American Legion approximately 45 x 30; VFW 45x60'
- Electrical outlets in both facilities were sufficient
- Phone hookup for disabled: uncertain at American Legion; VFW offered separate accessible room off the foyer with hookup
- Parking: American Legion 30 available spaces; VFW 70 available spaces
- Each location would have its own traffic concerns
- American Legion has a downtown location
- VFW would not be easily accessible on foot

Veronica Wheelock moved that the November 2016 General election be held at the VFW on Black Mountain Road. The motion was seconded by Sharry Manning and unanimously adopted.

The Board discussed the need to educate the public on the new polling location. All acknowledged that the move would be confusing for voters since the August Primary will be in its usual location of the Municipal Center and the change will affect only the November General election.

An ad hoc committee was formed consisting of Elliot Greenblott, Veronica Wheelock, Sharry Manning, Robert Oeser and Annette Cappy to brainstorm ideas other than the normal media resources for informing voters of the change in election venue. The committee will report its findings to the full board in July.

At 7:53 P.M., there being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Attest:

Town Clerk and Clerk
Board of Civil Authority