



**Town of Amherst
Board of Registrars
Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**

1. Call to order

Members Present: Demetria Shabazz, Jacqueline Gardner, and Susan Audette, Town Clerk.

Members Absent: Jaime Wagner.

Others Present:

Town Counsel Attorney Gregg Corbo;

Police Captain Gabriel Ting;

Assistant Town Clerk Amber Martin;

Election Workers Gale Longto and Fran Goodwin;

Town Council Members Dorothy Pam, Darcy DuMont, Cathy Schoen, and Evan Ross;

Members of the Public Vincent O'Connor, Carol Gray, Jeffrey Lee, Amber Cano-Martin, Pamela Rooney, Carol Pope, Maria Kopicki, Robert Pam, Alex Hoar;

Members of the Press Nick Grabbe and Scott Merzbach.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am. Attorney Corbo began with an introduction explaining that 17 ballots were received in the ballot box at Town Hall before the 8:00 p.m. deadline on election night that should have been properly counted after the close of polls, but due to an administrative oversight, they were being counted today and will be tallied with the rest of the election results. Additionally, he explained that three precincts erroneously locked essential election materials needed for the certification of the election inside with the sealed marked ballots. Therefore, those needed to be opened and resealed.

Next, Susan Audette explained the post-election tallying procedures and announced how many ballots remain outstanding (17 ballots being counted at meeting, 3 UOCAVA's and 1 Provisional). Member of the public Carol Gray raised the question how would we know that a voter didn't already vote. Susan explained that the election workers will be checking each ballot off the check in list used on election night.

Another attendee asked why the ballots weren't counted on election night. Susan reiterated that the ballot box was emptied twice at the end of the night, once at 6:30 pm, again at 8:00 pm and it

was too late to bring them to the polls to be counted and due to an administrative oversight, they weren't counted that night.

Susan further explained that the Town Clerk's Office documented every time the ballot box was emptied by whom and at what time. A resident requested a copy of said document and Susan politely said we can provide that at the Town Clerk's Office.

Another question was raised regarding provisional ballots – a resident wanted to know how many provisional ballots remained outstanding. Susan explained that the tally sheets and provisional ballot envelopes for 3 precincts were sealed inside the transfer boxes so that is partially why this meeting was needed. She also stated that there was one active provisional ballot so far but it hasn't been resolved and is currently in the process of an RMV inquiry with the State.

Several observers began recording the meeting at which point Attorney Corbo told them that they cannot zoom in on any ballots and must preserve the secrecy of the ballot.

Next, Captain Ting, Attorney Corbo and Susan Audette went downstairs to the Clerk's Office and retrieved the three voted ballot transfer boxes for precincts 3, 4 and 10. Carol Gray and Demetria Shabazz observed.

They subsequently went down and retrieved the 17 sealed, voted ballots from the vault. Carol Gray and Demetria Shabazz observed.

The ballots were first checked-in on the check in lists, and subsequently opened and tallied. This was done to preserve the secrecy of the ballot. Gale Longo began reading the precinct number, followed by the address and name of voter. Fran then repeated the address and name and checked them off the corresponding check in list with a red pencil. The 17 ballots belonged to the following: Precinct 2 – Michelle Budig of 111 High Point Drive (EV); Precinct 3 – Jennifer Tuleja of 976 East Pleasant St (AV); Precinct 4 – Jedediah D. Liebert of 101 Blue Hills Road (EV); Precinct 6 – Christopher E. Budnik of 239 Aubinwood Road (EV); Mayo A. Obregon of 9 Bedford Court (EV); Kenda L. Kroodsma of 89 Heatherstone Road (EV); Ruth E. Garbett of 14 Hickory Lane (EV); Zaim P. Elkalai of 496 South East Street (EV); Eugenio G. Sorcinelli of 31 Bridle Path (EV); Anjuli Willmer of 239 Aubinwood Road (EV); Gregory A. Oates of 89 Heatherstone Road (EV); Mary D. Sorcinelli of 31 Bridle Path (EV); Francisca Pretorius of 495 Old Farm Road (AV). Precinct 8 – Karen Elizabeth Manning of 17 Canterbury Lane (EV); James Douglas Manning of 17 Canterbury Lane (EV); Precinct 9 – Patrick James Hall of 4 Clifton Ave (EV); and Cynthia E. Mentzer of 87 Butterfield Ter (EV). "EV" represents an early voted ballot and "AV" represents an absentee voted ballot.

After the ballots were checked in, the election workers began opening the envelopes and retrieving the ballots. They were all placed face down on their table. Gale started by reading the precinct number, followed by the race and last name of the voted candidates, followed by yes or no for the

question. After reading all 17 ballots, the two election workers finalized their tally sheets. The results were then recorded into the various Clerk's books.

Susan then made an announcement that anyone can observe the tally sheets at the Clerk's Office. She then proceeded to open the empty ballot transfer boxes, and placed the voted ballots inside. Also, Gale confirmed aloud that the ballot transfer boxes were indeed empty. Precinct 2 seal number: 0658419; Precinct 3 seal number: 0658382. Precinct 4 seal number: 0658362. Precinct 5 seal number: 0658241. Precinct 8 seal number: 0658429; Precinct 9 seal number: 0658467.

Susan then announced that all the ballots have been counted and sealed.

Next, Susan proceeded to open the voted ballot boxes. The provisional ballot envelope, absentee envelope, and spoiled ballot envelope were retrieved from Precinct 3. Seal broken: 0720960; Re-sealed with: 0658417.

Susan retrieved the provisional ballots envelope, absentee envelope, and spoiled ballot envelope from Precinct 4's voted ballot transfer box. Seal broken: 0658397; Re-sealed with: 0658361.

The following items were retrieved from Precinct 10's voted ballot transfer box: active/inactive check in list, provisional ballot envelope, spoiled ballot envelope, tally sheets, and the AV-20 list. Seal broken: 0658234. Re-sealed with: 0658428.

Susan confirmed that there were no outstanding provisional ballots inside any of the 3 envelopes. Also, the absentee envelope did not contain any envelopes, they were all sealed with the voted ballots.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am. Captain Ting, Susan Audette, and Attorney Corbo transported all the materials and sealed transfer boxes downstairs to the Town Clerk vault.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Audette
Town Clerk
Clerk, Board of Registrars