



**Town of Amherst
Board of Registrars
Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**

This scheduled meeting of the Board of Registrars was in response to a petition received for a recount of the District 4 Councilor race at the November 2, 2021 Biennial Town Election. A recount notice was emailed on November 16, 2021 to Evan Ross, Pamela Rooney and Anika Lopes, candidates for this race, to take place at 10:00 am in the Large Activity Room at the Bangs Community Center.

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

Others Present: Attorney Lauren Goldberg, Police Captain Gabriel Ting.

Election Workers: Gale Longto and Ed Appel (Team 1)
Richard Morse and Aaron Hayden (Team 2)
Betsy Mathews and Fran Goodwin (Team 3)
James Pistrang and Barbara Pistrang (Team 4)
Angela Mills and Jennifer Moyston (Runners)
Cheri Boucher (Total Tally Clerk)

Agents for Candidate Rooney: Bridget Hynes, Craig Meadows, Elizabeth Vierling, Jennifer Taub, Julian Hynes, Maria Kopicki, Richard Roznoy, Steve Bloom, Susan Roznoy.

Agents for Candidate Ross: Clare Bertrand, Ellen Lindsey, Anastasia Ordonez, KC Conlan.

At 9:35 am, all members of the Board of Registrars, Police Captain, and the Town Attorney were present in the Town Clerk's office. The locked Town Clerk supply room which contained the voted ballots was unlocked by Susan Audette. The Registrars were given an opportunity to look inside and determined that nothing was amiss. Precincts 5 and 9 ballot transfer cases were removed for the recount. All supplies were gathered to be moved to the Bangs Center, which was done by walking over as a group. Arrival time at the Bangs Center was at 9:47 am.

All election workers were present, as well as two runners and a total tally clerk. Materials were distributed to the recount tables. It was discovered that some of the materials had been left behind in the Town Clerk's office, so a call was placed to Town Clerk staff who brought them over to the Bangs Center at 9:55 am.

Once everything was set up, the recount was called to order at 10:05 am. Town Clerk Susan Audette swore all election workers and registrars to their official duties as the first order of business.

Instructions were then given on the recount process by Attorney Goldberg, allowing time for questions.

At 10:55 am, after all questions were answered, the blue ballot transfer box for precinct 5 was retrieved. Seal #0720938 was cut, and ballots were removed and divided into two stacks – one for each runner, who

distributed them amongst the 4 tables of recount workers. These were then counted into blocks of 50 ballots. As each block was counted, it was returned to the Board of Registrars' table. Once all ballots were counted, one block was given to each team of election workers along with a tally sheet and envelope. Tallying then commenced. As each block of 50 ballots was finished, a runner would then retrieve and take to the total tally clerk for verification and recording.

At 11:45 am, after the precinct 5 ballots were completed, the two precinct 9 ballot transfer boxes were retrieved. The seal was cut on the blue transfer box first, #0720905, and then on the black transfer box, #0658467. Ballots were removed and placed into two stacks. One overseas ballot was added to the precinct 9 ballots. This ballot had been counted by the Board of Registrars at a posted meeting on November 15, 2021 per State Elections Law. Each runner then distributed these ballots amongst the recount worker tables. The process of counting ballots into blocks of 50 was continued, until all ballots were counted and brought back to the Board of Registrars' table. They were then distributed one block at a time to each recount table along with a tally sheet and envelope as before.

At 12:40 pm, the Board of Registrars commenced a public hearing for the purpose of reviewing the decisions made by the Town Clerk regarding the counting of one provisional ballot, as well as the decision to reject absentee ballots as defective.

After a thorough review of, and questions answered regarding the provisional ballot materials, a motion was made by Jaime Wagner, seconded by Jacqueline Gardner, to confirm the Town Clerk's decision to count the provisional ballot. The Board of Registrars voted unanimously in favor, and the motion passed.

After a thorough review of, and questions answered regarding the rejected absentee ballots, a motion was made by Jaime Wagner, seconded by Jacqueline Gardner, to confirm the Town Clerk's decision. The Board of Registrars voted unanimously in favor, and the motion passed.

The public hearing of the Board of Registrars was closed at 1:00 pm.

Attorney Goldberg next offered the candidate and agents the opportunity to view of any other election materials. However, no one asked to see any other materials from election day.

The total tally clerk brought the completed results over to the Board of Registrars at 1:15 pm and discussed her findings. The recount results were:

Evan Robert Ross:	474
Pamela S. Rooney	479
Anika M. Lopes	595
Blanks	422
Write-ins	0

Election night results were:

Evan Robert Ross:	473
Pamela S. Rooney	479
Anika M. Lopes	595
Blanks	420
Write-ins	0

Minutes approved by Board of Registrars December 14, 2021.

It was estimated that there was one blank ballot included with the voted ballots, which would explain the extra blanks counting during the recount. It was also estimated that one ballot was counted as a blank instead of a vote for Evan Robert Ross on election day.

After reviewing all results, the Board of Registrars read the recount results as above, and declared that Candidates Lopes and Rooney were the winners for District 4 Councilor.

The precinct 5 ballot box was re-sealed with seal #0658260.

The precinct 9 ballot box was re-sealed with seal #0658259.

As the recount was now concluded, Jaime Wagner, seconded by Jacqueline Gardner, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Audette
Town Clerk
Clerk, Board of Registrars