

Meeting Minutes

Discussion of Date & Time for Ward Four Recount November 12, 2021

A meeting was held on Friday, November 12, 2021, to discuss the Recount, by hand, of Ward Four Ballots from the November 2, 2021, City Biennial Election. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this board meeting will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the city's website, at www.salem.com. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. If we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the city's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

In attendance were City Clerk, Ilene Simons; Assistant City Clerk – Elections, Rochelle Sport; Assistant City Clerk – Council, Maureen Fisher; Chairperson of the Board of Registrars, Charles Barton; Board members Donald Bates and Alexandra Pineros-Shields; and Lauren Goldberg, Esq. of KP Law, P.C. City Solicitor, Beth Rennard was absent. Chairperson Barton opened the meeting at 5:07PM.

City Clerk Simons stated that the purpose of this meeting to set the date and time for the Recount. She asked if it was a requirement to read the recount petition. Atty. Goldberg said it was not required, but she could if she wanted to. City Clerk Simons read the petition and asked the Board their availability. Her request was for the recount to take place on Monday, November 22, 2021, at 10AM. Because of COVID, the location would be the first-floor conference room at City Hall Annex, 98 Washington Street. Donald Bates made a motion to accept the proposed date, time, and location. Alexandra Pineros-Shields seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous. City Clerk confirmed date, time, and location; and said that Lauren Goldberg of K.P. Law had been retained. Solicitor Rennard was aware of the proceedings. Donald Bates said this would be straight-forward. Atty. Goldberg agreed, although we would be required to follow specific procedures.

City Clerk Simons said she would be sending letters to the Candidates on Monday, November 15, 2021, and asked if it would be permissible to notify the Candidates via email instead of via Constable. Atty. Goldberg said yes if both Candidates agree. She went on to explain that the reason why most communities choose to communicate via email is because it is faster. Notices could also be sent via US mail. City Clerk Simons said she would post the meeting notice of the Recount on Monday, November 15, 2021.

Atty. Goldberg recommended limiting the number of observers because of COVID and asked about the number of teams and talliers. City Clerk Simons said she was working on getting together two teams per precinct. Atty. Goldberg recommended rearranging the furniture to reduce clutter in the room and agreed that two teams were the best option to reduce time together. She referenced a booklet, updated in 2017, regarding recounts which could be found on the website of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The booklet explains the Recount process.

Donald Bates made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. Alexandra Pineros-Shields seconded the motion. Atty. Goldberg recommended City Clerk Simons take a Roll Call Vote; three Yeas, Zero Nays. Attendees signed off at 5:22PM.

