

JAMESTOWN BOARD OF CANVASSERS MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025

2:30 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Board of Canvassers was called to order at 2:39 P.M. at 93 Narragansett Ave in the Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers. Board of Canvassers Members present were as follows: Mr. Kenneth Newman, Ms. Daphne Meredith, Ms. Jennifer Thran, and Ms. Laura Goldstein. Absent from the meeting was Mr. Hugh Murphy.

Also in attendance was Keith Ford, Deputy Town Clerk/Clerk to the Board of Canvassers.

II. MINUTES

A) Approval of Minutes; Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote:

1) Board of Canvassers meeting of March 26, 2025.

Mr. Newman opened the agenda item for the above minutes. Ms. Meredith made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as presented with a second by Ms. Thran. Vote: Mr. Newman, Aye; Ms. Meredith, Aye; Ms. Thran, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Issues with Political Signage around Jamestown.

Mr. Newman opened the agenda item of the appointments to the Jamestown Elections Training and Advisory Committee and commented that it has been difficult to find interested individuals for the committee and also to adhere to the bipartisan requirement. This comes about from an informational meeting held prior to the November 5 General Election with Town Administrator (TA) Mello regarding signage regulations, who residents can make complaints to and how they are handled as well as where property lines, easements and state vs town roadways are determined. Mr. Ford commented that going forward the TA's suggestion was to look into the sign ordinance, and see if a change is needed and moving forward from there. Ms. Meredith commented that we should be careful with this issue as we could interfere with the first amendment very easily. Mr. Ford commented that we should work with the planning department on any future research and potential changes as well as the Town Solicitors. Ms. Meredith commented that the Board should first educate ourselves and the electorate of the current ordinance and the current limitations. Then proceed with the enforcement part. *A Discussion Ensued.* Ms. Meredith made a motion for the Board of Canvassers to begin research Article 13- Signage, of the Jamestown Code of Ordinance to make recommendations to make amendments to the ordinance with a second from Ms. Thran. Ms. Thran commented that there is a timeline within the ordinance specifically for political signs also specifically verbiage to size as well. *A Discussion ensued.* Mr. Newman called for a vote on the standing motion. Vote: Mr. Newman, Aye; Ms. Meredith, Aye; and Ms. Thran, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

B) Review, Discussion, and/or Action, and/or Vote: Board of Canvassers Liaison to the Elections Training and Advisory Committee.

Mr. Newman opened the agenda item commenting that without a standing committee due to lack of a quorum that the Board should take the role of the committee until one is made. Ms. Meredith moved to table further discussion/vote until there is a duly constituted Elections Training and Advisory Committee with a second by Ms. Thran. Vote: Mr. Newman, Aye; Ms. Meredith, Aye; and Ms. Thran, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action, and/or Vote: Financial Town Meeting (FTM) to be held on Monday, June 2, 2025.

Mr. Ford commented that as for the measures of the FTM, he has requested voting equipment from the Board of Elections including two (2) DS-200's, four to six (4-6) Poll Pads, fifteen hundred (1,500) yes/no ballots, one (1) express vote, eight (8) privacy booths including a handicap accessibly, and bracelets to identify voters vs non-voters. The capacity of the gymnasium is 440 seated individuals, and when two (2) fire marshals are present that number can increase to 700. He has confirmed with Chief Tighe that they will be on location. If need be, the cafeteria can hold an addition 140 individuals with audio and video capability. Mr. Ford moved on to the procedures of the FTM. *A Discussion*

Ensued. Mr. Newman commented that the Board should sit down with the editor of the Jamestown Press regarding the procedures of the FTM. *A Discussion Ensued.* No Vote/Action Taken.

- B) Review, Discussion, and/or Action, and/or Vote: Presentation to the Board of Elections and/or Department of State regarding the Elections Training and advisory Committee's findings and recommendations.

Mr. Newman opened the agenda item and Ms. Meredith made a motion that the Board of Canvassers present the findings of the Elections Training and Advisory Committee to the Board of Elections and the Secretary of States' Office with a second from Ms. Thran. Ms. Thran inquired about a timeframe for the presentation. *A Discussion ensued.* Mr. Newman after discussion called for a vote. Vote: Mr. Newman, Aye; Ms. Meredith, Aye; and Ms. Thran, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously. Ms. Thran commented that for a date of the presentation, it should be after the FTM. Mr. Newman commented that the June meeting may be a good date. Mr. Ford will reach out to both offices and invite them for the presentation.

IV. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Ford commented that the May 8th meeting will have the previous meeting minutes, approval of non-voters from the Town and School Department attending the FTM, as well as the Final Canvass for the FTM.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Murphy made a motion to adjourn with a second by Ms. Meredith. Vote: Mr. Newman, Aye; Ms. Meredith, Aye; and Ms. Thran, Aye. Vote Passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 3:24 P.M.

Attest:



Keith Ford
Deputy Town Clerk/Clerk to the Board of Canvassers

CC: Town Council Members (5)
Board of Canvassers (5)
Roberta Fagan, Town Clerk