

Electronic Voting Implementation Subcommittee
Minutes of the Meeting of 2017-11-30

The meeting was called to order by Dave Bernstein at 7:30 pm in the Selectmen's Office of the Wayland Town Building. Also in attendance were Lynne Dunbrack, Beth Klein, Larry Krakauer, Alan Reiss, Don Schuler, and Jon Sieber.

Larry Krakauer was appointed Secretary pro tem.

There was no initial public comment.

Review of the November 14, 2017 Special Town Meeting: This agenda item was taken up first, since moderator Dennis Berry was able to participate in the early part of the meeting.

The Town Meeting had 20 votes, on 15 articles. It was noted that the meeting could not have been completed in only one night without electronic voting. The vote on the main motion under article 11, with a two-thirds quantum of vote, passed 481-220, a slim margin. The result was accepted without dispute, a measure of the acceptance of the accuracy of electronic voting by the Town.

Dunbrack: There were some people who tried to leave without their handset. It was suggested that the moderator remind attendees about the rules on proxy voting before any vote on a controversial issue.

Don Schuler reviewed his forecasting methodology, which worked well for this meeting.

It was noted that there were not enough chairs. While we only need as many terminals as we have voters, we need about 20% more chairs than voters, due to scattered empty chairs. Also, at one point the parking lot filled up, which could be a major issue with a larger attendance.

MSPU (Dunbrack): To approve the minutes from our 2017-11-14 meeting.

Review and approve Requirements for the Electronic Voting RFP:

The town has purchased 8 "Poll Pad" devices, used so far to check in for early voting. The Commonwealth will accept uploads from Poll Pads. Thus if they could be made to talk to the voting system, perhaps in the future uploading of the TM attendee list could be made automatic.

Items 4.c. and 4.d. of the Electronic Voting RFP addressed this additional desired capability for electronically conveying the State-required attendance list to the Massachusetts State Voter Registration Information System (4.c. with direct upload, and 4.d. via the possible use of the Poll Pads discussed in the previous paragraph).

Sieber: I have not been able to find a contact at the State level willing to discuss electronic upload of the attendance list per item 4.c.

Bernstein: Proposed removing 4.c. and 4.d. from the Requirements, since we don't fully understand all the ramifications.

Although the committee decided to remove these additional desired capabilities from the current RFP, the committee still intends to keep investigating these possibilities.

MSPU (Bernstein): Approve the Electronic Voting RFP as circulated, except with "Additional Desired Capability" items c. and d. under "4. Check-In" removed.

Review the status of “Town Meeting Voting from Home”:

Voatz submitted ballpark pricing estimates, but has still not responded to our request for a description of their communications architecture and security mechanisms, citing lack of time due to other commitments

Their inability to provide the requested description after 3 months does not inspire confidence that Voatz could reliably support a “Town Meeting Voting from Home” initiative, were Wayland to initiate one.

The committee consensus was that investigation of the possibility of voting from home is not ready to go beyond preliminary investigation within the ELVIS committee, which will continue to keep abreast of these technologies.

Conclusion:

The next meeting date was set for January 11, 2018.

There was no final public comment.

MSPU (Reiss): To adjourn (9:10 pm)

Key: MSPU = Moved, Seconded, Passed Unanimously