

MINUTES
SHARON BOARD OF REGISTRARS
November 21, 2022

The meeting of the Sharon Board of Registrars was called to order at 7:30 pm by Town Clerk/Registrar Mark F. Hogan, at the Town Clerk's Office, 90 South Main Street, Sharon. Registrars Mark F. Hogan, Colleen M. Tuck, Deborah K. Yaffe, and Brian W. Johnson were in attendance.

ITEM 1: Hand count ballots postmarked by November 8, 2022, mailed from outside the United States and received by 5:00pm on November 18, 2022.

There were no ballots that qualified.

ITEM 2: Consider authorizing the staff in the Town Clerk's Office to perform all actions required by the Board of Registrars, according to 950 CMR 55.02 (12) and MGL ch 53, §7. Thus, the authorization of the use of the facsimile signature stamps for nomination papers and petition papers.

MOTION: To authorize the staff in the Town Clerk's Office to perform all actions required by the Board of Registrars, according to 950 CMR 55.02 (12) and MGL ch 53, §7. Thus, the authorization of the use of the facsimile signature stamps for nomination papers and petition papers.

Discussion on the merits of this process was had.

(Tuck – Yaffe)

4-0 **PASSES**

ITEM 3: Consider requesting the Select Board to opt out of Vote By Mail and opt into Early In-Person voting for the 2023 Annual Town Election, according to Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022 §25B, (a)(1), (c)(1, 2 & 3).

Discussion was had on the system that Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022 put in place with regard to municipal election and early voting by mail and early voting in person. Chapter 92 requires early vote by mail and does require early in person voting. Chapter 92 does allow for the Select Board to opt out of vote by mail. It also allows the Select Board to opt into early in person voting if requested by not less than half of the Board of Registrars. Also, what method or methods of early voting should be offered for the 2023 Annual Town Election and the days/hours to request of the Select Board for early in person voting.

MOTION: To request the Select Board to opt out of Vote By Mail and opt into Early In-Person voting for the 2023 Annual Town Election, according to Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022 §25B, (a)(1), (c)(1, 2 & 3) and that the following times be available for early in person voting:

Saturday, May 6, 2023: 9:00am-12:00pm
Sunday, May 7, 2023: 9:00am-12:00pm
Monday, May 8, 2023: 9:00am-4:30pm
Tuesday, May 9, 2023: 9:00am-4:30pm
Wednesday, May 10, 2023: 9:00am-4:30pm
Thursday, May 11, 2023: 9:00am-5:30pm
Friday, May 12, 2023: 9:00am-12:00pm
(Yaffe – Johnson)
4-0 **PASSES**

ITEM 4: Vote to approve Minutes – June 28, 2022.

MOTION: To approve Minutes – June 28, 2022.
(Tuck – Johnson)
4-0 **PASSES**

ITEM 5: Topics Not Anticipated Within 48 Hours of Posting.

None

ITEM 6: Adjourn.

MOTION: To adjourn at 7:55 pm
(Tuck – Yaffe)
4-0 **PASSES**

DOCUMENTS:

Excerpts from Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022

Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022

Section 25B. (a)(1) The election officers and registrars of every city or town shall allow any registered voter qualified under section 1 of chapter 51 to vote early by mail for any municipal preliminary or election or presidential or state primary or election, including any such special preliminary, primary or election, or any primary or election held pursuant to section 140 to fill a vacancy for senator or representative in congress; provided, however, that the select board, board of selectmen, town council or city council of each city and town may, after a public hearing and by recorded and public vote not less than 45 days prior to the date of the preliminary or election, opt out of the provisions of this subsection for any regular or special municipal preliminary or municipal election; provided further, that any registered voter qualified under section 1 of chapter 51 shall be allowed to vote early by mail for any municipal preliminary or municipal election held on the same day as any presidential or state primary or election or any primary or election held pursuant to section 140 to fill a vacancy for senator or representative in congress; and provided further, that this subsection shall not apply to an annual or special town meeting.

Section 25B

(c)(1) The select board, board of selectmen, town council or city council of each city and town may vote to authorize early in-person voting for any other city or town preliminary or election not included in subsection (b). Such vote may only be taken after a request from not less than 50 percent of the registrars of the city or town recommending in-person early voting; provided, however, that such vote shall occur not less than 5 business days prior to the proposed beginning of early voting.

(2) As part of the vote to allow early in-person voting under this subsection, a city or town shall set the early voting period to begin not sooner than 17 days before the preliminary or election and end not later than 2 business days preceding the preliminary or election.

(3) Early voting under this subsection shall be conducted during the usual business hours of the city or town clerk unless different hours are set as part of the vote to allow early in-person voting, including any weekend hours.