

# MINUTES MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY

Thursday, May 5, 2016, 7:30 PM

BCA Members present: Bill Moore, Marge Munger, Sally Cook, Dick White, Seth Clifford, Del Cook, Lou Faivre(Chair), Doug Bailey, Seth Hopkins, Bud Coolidge, Richard Baker, Joan Thomas, Susan Gage(Clerk)

## I) Determination of Polling Location

Meeting was convened at 7:56 pm. Clerk Susan Gage stated that the voting booths have been relocated to the Town Hall. Doug Bailey explained that the elementary school is no longer a viable as a polling place, as the doors have to remain unlocked for voters, and it puts the school and the children at risk. Mr. Bailey also explained that the school is now no longer a Town School district, and that it makes sense to move the polling places.

Discussion ensued regarding parking issues at the Town Hall. Ms. Gage stated that she required internet access and a phone line at the polling place. Sally Cook suggested the Senior Citizens Center. Ms. Gage stated that she would need a place to store the polling booths, and that the Senior Center rents out the basement regularly. Seth Hopkins suggested the American Legion, and stated that he has spoken to them about it. He did not realize that we needed internet and a phone line though, and did not speak to them about that. Seth Clifford suggested the Fire House as a polling place. Del Cook was concerned that an emergency situation might hamper the fire fighters if there was an election at the time.

Mr. Bailey stated that the Town Hall has both internet and phone line now, and that he understands the concerns about parking, but feels that four accessible parking spots in the front, and the parking behind the Mobil station, we can accommodate voters. Mr. Bailey also stated that there was now heat in the Town Hall main room, which could accommodate town meetings.

Bill Moore moved and Seth Hopkins seconded that Town Meetings be held at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, upstairs in the main part of the building. Discussion ensued about parking issues. Mr. Bailey explained that the town has funds reserved for the purchase of the land behind the Mobil station, which we will use for parking.

Dick White called the question. Ms. Gage reread the motion. The motion was voted affirmatively.

Began discussion about a polling place for elections. Ms. Gage expressed concern about parking, when polling is from 7 am through 7 pm. Discussion ensued about the American

Legion hosting the polling place. There was concern about where folks would set up to sell items. Ms. Gage explained that per statute, there should be no selling of items at the polls. Brandon has always allowed organizations to fundraise at the polls, but technically it is not allowed. Dick White moved that the polling place be moved the American Legion. The motion was not seconded, and later rescinded.

Discussion went back to polling at the school. Mr. Hopkins stated that there were a number of issues of concern about polling at the school, even if the police were used to monitor the situation. Mr. Hopkins brought up the possibility of sex offenders entering the school to vote. Discussion then focused on the Senior Center. Ms. Gage suggested she have a conversation with Kathy Mathis about using the Senior Center for voting. Mr. Hopkins stated that we need to find a place that is a long-term polling place.

Dick White made a motion, seconded by Bill Moore to hold polling in the basement room of the Town Hall and Community Center. Joan expressed concern about parking. Mr. Bailey suggested we get help from the Police Department to control traffic around the polling center. Mr. Moore suggested a friendly amendment to establish a planning committee to help Ms. Gage notify voters and set up the new polling place. Motion passed, with Richard Baker against the motion. Richard Baker felt that polling at the Town Hall would discourage voters from turning out, and that this is the worst location in town.

Bill Moore moved to adjourn, seconded by Dick White. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Gage, Clerk



Louis Faivre, BCA Chair