

Board of Civil Authority
Bennington, VT

Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2021

Members Present: Cassandra Barbeau, Barbara Bluto, Kate Canning, Jeanne Conner, Albert Krawczyk, Bruce Lee-Clark, Anne Mook, Mary Morrissey, Sarah Perrin, Joan Pinsonneault, Marjorie Robinson, David Shaffe, and Anna Swierad

Also Present: Representative Michael Nigro

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss Special School Election (11/2/21) & Legislative reapportionment.

**Meeting called to order by Board Chair, David Shaffe, at 5:03 PM.

**Barbara Bluto made the motion to set the polling hours for 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, seconded by Mary Morrissey, motion passed unanimously.

**Cassie explained the temporary law last year allowing use of the large ballot box on Town property is now permanent law with a vote of the BCA. Mary Morrissey made the motion to place the ballot box back on the property for upcoming elections until the Board votes to rescind the vote, seconded by Bruce Lee-Clark, motion passed unanimously.

**Cassie passed a sign-up sheet for poll worker availability.

**Cassie gave a presentation of the new legislative districts as proposed by the Legislative Apportionment Board (LAB). All legislative districts across the State are being created as smaller, single-member districts, giving Bennington 4 districts, including a portion of Shaftsbury. The Town of Bennington does not have enough population to support four Representatives anymore, without the addition of population from a nearby Town. Cassie had researched census data provided by the LAB and the Secretary of State's Office, and created two other proposals for Board consideration. Both were just drafts and the BCA is the ultimate decider of making any different recommendations back to the LAB no later than November 15th. One version includes a portion of Shaftsbury, one version includes the Town of Woodford.

**There was general discussion regarding the pros and cons of single-member vs. two-member Legislative districts.

**The Town of Shaftsbury BCA will be meeting next week and the Bennington BCA wishes for Cassie to attend the meeting and provide feedback as to how Shaftsbury feels.

**Cassie suggested a follow-up meeting on November 9, 2021 to make a final decision for a recommendation to the LAB.

**With no further business, Mary Morrissey made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Bruce Lee-Clark, motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassandra Barbeau
Bennington Town Clerk

