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TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: June 27, 2025
TIME: 9:08 AM

**Board of Registrars of Voters
April 11, 2025 - Held Exclusively by Zoom**

Chair McGaw convened the meeting at 9:30 AM.

Members present: Robert McGaw, Steve Shestakofsky, Paul Minor, Ellen O'Brien Cushman

Others present: Kate Foster and Town Counsel Kristen Gagalis of Anderson & Kreiger, Meg Piccione, Jeanne Mooney, Michael Crowley.

The exclusive purpose of the meeting is to officially accept the Recount Petition for the office of Moderator on the April 1, 2025 Town Election Ballot, to confirm by vote the date of the recount as tentatively scheduled by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Town Counsel and to briefly review preparations. The Recount Petition submitted by Mark Paolillo, candidate for Moderator who was not elected on Election Day, who is a registered voter of Precinct 8, and on behalf of the petitioners in all eight of the Town precincts.

On a motion by Ellen, seconded by Paul, to accept the Recount Petition filed by Mark Paolillo, registered voter of Precinct 8 and candidate for Moderator for the petitioners, the Chair called upon Town Clerk Ellen O'Brien Cushman to summarize the events and actions:

The Town Clerk, Ellen O'Brien Cushman, reported that she had certified the signatures as required by MGL ch 54, Ch 135 and has certified the total quantum of signatures in each of the eight Precincts has met or exceeded the minimum threshold required.

Attorney Gagalis stated that it is wise to hold the recount over two days to separate the blocking of the ballots from the counting of the votes. This saves time overall and allows any anomalies in the blocking to be identified/resolved before the count of votes begins.

There being no questions, the Chair called for the roll call vote on the motion: Yes – Paul Minor, Steve Shestakofsky, Bob McGaw and Ellen Cushman, motion approved unanimously by 4-0-0.

Ellen summarized the steps taken to date and the tentative plans she has made:

On behalf of the Board, the petitioner and the candidate elected on Election Day, Michael Crowley, Registrars and Town Counsel were notified by the Town Clerk of the date, time, place and procedures for the the Recount of Belmont Precincts 1,2,3,4,5, 6, 7 and 8 for Moderator, on the April 1, 2025 Town Election ballot.

On a motion by Steve, seconded by Paul : that the Board set the date and time for the Board of Registrars to hold the Recount as follows -

Schedule the Board of Registrars of Voters meeting to conduct a Recount scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 9 AM in Conference Room #2 of Belmont Town Hall, located at 455 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA, to open the ballot boxes and count the ballots into blocks of 50. The Recount will adjourn and continue Thursday, April 17,

2025 at 9 AM at the Auditorium of Belmont Town Hall, located at 455 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA to recount the votes until all ballots from the eight Precincts have been counted.

The Board voted by roll call unanimously to approve the motion, Steve – Yes, Paul – Yes, Bob – Yes, Ellen - Yes.

Ellen then reviewed the recount procedures – all parties have already received the Recount Notice prepared by the Town Clerk, reviewed by Town Counsel.

In accordance with the provisions of General Laws chapter 54, section 135, Michael Crowley and Mark Paolillo will have the right to be present and to witness the recount, accompanied by counsel, if desired. Additionally, the two candidates may be represented by “agents,” appointed by the committee/petitioners or counsel in writing, sufficient in number to provide one agent for each officer or clerk counting or checking ballots. Both candidates, their counsel, if applicable, and properly designated agents shall have the right to observe and inspect ballots, tally sheets and other papers used in the recount and to watch every individual act performed in connection therewith.

Ballots will be delivered to a member of the Board of Registrars in said Conference Room 2 on April 16, who will witness the unsealing of the containers and the removal of the ballots for the purpose of separating all of the voted ballots into blocks. During the voted ballot blocking process, no votes will be counted or tallied nor ballots examined for votes; the ballots will simply be counted into blocks of 50, assigned a Block Number for the appropriate Precinct and the Blocks placed into secured containers and affixed with numbered locks. The two candidates are welcome to observe this process but should notify the Town Clerk if planning to attend. Members of the public may observe the blocking from behind the guard rail. When the blocking is complete, the recount will then be in recess until April 17, when it will resume in the Auditorium at 9 AM for the recounting of the votes. After the recounting of the votes, all parties will have opportunity to review the Election Record, and all rejected ballots will be presented by the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk reported that she has arranged for six election workers and Town Clerk staff members to perform the blocking of the ballots for April 16th. She has also, as of today, scheduled seventeen Counting Teams, each consisting of one vote reader and one vote marker; four Runners to deliver and collect ballots; and a team of two Vote Tabulators who will enter the vote tallies into an Excel to derive the final Recount Results. Town Counsel will be present and will provide an additional attorney to assist in recording of detailed minutes of the Recount for the Board.

Ellen explained that it would be best practice for the Board to appoint Assistant Registrars, the Town Clerk’s staff members Nancy Casale, Dan Cane, Meg Piccione, so they may handle ballots and substitute for a member of the counting teams if needed.

On a motion by Ellen to so name the Assistant Registrars, seconded by Steve, the board voted to unanimously approve by roll call vote the motion to appoint: The Board voted, Steve – Yes, Paul – Yes, Bob – Yes, Ellen - Yes.

Bob indicated that anyone who is interested in finding out more about the procedures that will be followed, the role of the Board of Registrars, etc. should review the State's Recount Regulations.

All Registrars confirmed they will be present for the Recount.

On a motion by Steve Shestakofsky, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen O'Brien Cushman