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DATE: June 27, 2025
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**BOARD OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS
OF THE TOWN OF BELMONT**

Recount of April 2, 2025 Town Moderator Race, Annual Town Election
Belmont Town Hall,

455 Concord Avenue, Conference Room 2, Belmont, MA 02478

April 16, 2025 at 1:00 p.m., continued to April 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m , Town Hall Auditorium.

Present: Board of Registrars: Robert McGaw, Paul Minor, Stephen Shestakofsky, and Ellen O'Brien Cushman (also present in her role as Town Clerk) (collectively, the "Board"); Assistant Town Clerk Meg Piccione; Town Counsel Mina Makarious and Kristen Gagalis of Anderson & Kreiger, LLP; Candidate Michael Crowley and his representative Dennis Newman; observers; recount workers; and Belmont Police Officer Kim Hurley.

Opening and Procedures: At approximately 1:00 p.m. on April 16, 2025, Board Chair Robert McGaw opened the meeting for the sole purpose of blocking ballots into groups of 50 in order to facilitate the recount. Town Clerk Ellen O'Brien Cushman administers the oath to the workers. Election Workers Suzanne Patterson, Carolyn Bunyon, Margaret Decker, Gaspard Detheux , and Town Clerk staff Nancy Casale, Daniel Cane, Meg Piccione blocked the ballots into groups of 50. 4481 Ballots were blocked and counted, which matched the number of Ballots counted on the official total results on Election Day. Chair McGaw then moved to adjourn and continue the recount until 9:00 AM April 17, 2025. Vote: Minor – aye; Shestakofsky – aye; McGaw – aye; Cushman – aye. Motion to adjourn and continue passes 4-0.

On April 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Board Chair Robert McGaw opens the meeting and welcomes the recount workers. Town Clerk Ellen O'Brien Cushman administers the oath. Town Counsel Gagalis explains the process by which ballots will be retrieved and counted. Ballots will be distributed from the eight precincts to the tables of tally clerks for counting, with one recount worker being the reader and one recount worker being the tallier. Each observer will stand in one place and can object to the vote as called at the table; the ballot objected to will be brought up to the Board for a decision. The observers cannot ask questions of the recount workers but can raise their hands and object if there is an issue. The runners will bring the completed tally sheets and block envelopes containing the counted ballots to the individual inputting the total vote tallies, who will keep track of all votes for the precincts and blocks in a master spreadsheet. The legal standard being applied is whether the ballot reader could ascertain with reasonable certainty the will of the voter, and the vote will be recorded as such unless there is an objection. The process for further protesting ballots before the Board is explained. Town Counsel Gagalis affords an opportunity for questions from the candidates and their observers, recount workers, and the general public.

At approximately 9:30 a.m., Town Clerk Office Staff Member Dan Cane, Officer Hurley, Mr. Shestakofsky, Town Counsel Gagalis, and Crowley Campaign Volunteer Angus Abercrombie go

to the vault to bring the ballots out to the recount area. (Ms. O'Brien Cushman took the place of Mr. Shestakofsky for precincts 4-8).

Between approximately 9:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. the entire set of ballots for all eight precincts is loaded and transported to the recount area (the "area") by Mr. Cane. The Board then confirms the seal numbers on the ballot boxes for Precinct 1 as 0878501 and 0878502.

At approximately 9:49 a.m., the recounting of the ballots from Precinct 1 begins.

At approximately 10:07 a.m., the observer at Table 12 raises an objection. The election worker has called a ballot for Mr. Paolillo. Mr. Crowley's representative (Mr. Newman) objects to this, and the ballot is brought to the Board of Registrars. Mr. Newman explains that he believes the intent of the voter is unclear because the voter has made marks next to both Mr. Crowley and Mr. Paolillo's names, so the vote should be tallied as a blank. Ms. O'Brien Cushman states that the ballot is a mail-in ballot, and the voter clearly knew how to make his or her choices clear. She moves to accept the ballot as for Mr. Paolillo, as called at Table 12. Mr. Shestakofsky seconds. All Board members vote in favor. The motion passes, 4-0. Mr. Newman further challenges this determination and the ballot is held aside.

At approximately 10:12 a.m. the ballot box for Precinct 1 is sealed with the following labels: 0878550; 0878549.

At approximately 10:14 a.m., Mr. McGaw reads off the following labels on the box with the Precinct 2 ballots: 0878503; 0878504. That box is then opened and the recounting of the ballots from Precinct 2 begins. At approximately 10:30 a.m., the recounting of ballots from Precinct 2 is finished. The box with the Precinct 2 ballots is resealed with the following labels: 0878545; 0878546.

At approximately 10:35 a.m., Mr. McGaw reads off the following labels on the box with the Precinct 3 ballots: 0878505; 0878506. That box is then opened and the recounting of the ballots from Precinct 3 begins. At approximately 10:41 a.m., the recounting of ballots from Precinct 3 is finished. The box with the Precinct 3 ballots is resealed with the following labels: 0878541; 0878542.

At approximately 10:53 a.m., Mr. McGaw reads off the following labels on the box with the Precinct 4 ballots: 0878507; 0878508. That box is then opened and the recounting of the ballots from Precinct 4 begins. At approximately 11:08 a.m., the recounting of ballots from Precinct 4 is finished. The box with the Precinct 4 ballots is resealed with the following labels: 0878543; 0878544.

At approximately 11:09 a.m., Mr. McGaw reads off the following labels on the box with the Precinct 5 ballots: 0878511; 0878512. That box is then opened and the recounting of the ballots from Precinct 5 begins. At approximately 11:20 a.m., the recounting of ballots from Precinct 5 is

finished. The box with the Precinct 5 ballots is resealed with the following labels: 0878547; 0878548.

At approximately 11:25 a.m., Mr. McGaw reads off the following labels on the box with the Precinct 6 ballots: 0878510; 0878509. That box is then opened and the recounting of the ballots from Precinct 6 begins.

At approximately 11:30 a.m., the observer at Table 14 raises an objection. The election worker has called a ballot as a blank. Mr. Crowley’s representative (Mr. Newman) objects to this, and the ballot is brought to the Board of Registrars. Mr. Newman explains that he believes the voter’s initial vote for Mr. Paolillo was clearly obliterated, and the ballot was then clearly marked for Crowley. Mr. McGaw says that the markings for Paolillo are clearly to be ignored based on their intensity; had the markings been made with the same intensity, it would have been a blank. He notes that because it was a mail in ballot, the person did not have the option to get a new ballot after they presumably marked the ballot contrary to their intent on the first try. Ms. O’Brien Cushman explains that that is incorrect, as the person could have gotten a new ballot by filing a written request with the Town Clerk. Mr. Minor moved to count the vote as a vote for Crowley. Mr. Shestakofsky seconds. All Board members vote in favor. The motion passes, 4-0.

At approximately 11:46 a.m., the recounting of ballots from Precinct 6 is finished. The box with the Precinct 6 ballots is resealed with the following labels: 0878535; 0878536.

At approximately 11:47 a.m., Mr. McGaw reads off the following labels on the box with the Precinct 7 ballots: 0878513; 0878514. That box is then opened and the recounting of the ballots from Precinct 7 begins. At approximately 12:02 p.m., the recounting of ballots from Precinct 7 is finished. The box with the Precinct 7 ballots is resealed with the following labels: 0878531; 0878532.

At approximately 12:03 p.m., Mr. McGaw reads off the following labels on the box with the Precinct 8 ballots: 0878520; 0878519. That box is then opened and the recounting of the ballots from Precinct 8 begins. At approximately 12:18 p.m., the recounting of ballots from Precinct 8 is finished. The box with the Precinct 8 ballots is resealed with the following labels: 0878533; 0878534.

At approximately 12:15 p.m., the Tally Clerk prints the final tally sheet and Town Clerk announces the totals into the record.

VOTE FOR	NUMBER OF VOTES
Crowley	2136
Paolillo	2125

Blank	204
TOTAL	4481

At approximately 12:20 p.m., Mr. Newman withdraws his one remaining challenge.

At 12:22 p.m. Mr. Minor moves to confirm the summary presented by the Town Clerk as the results of the election. Mr. Shestakofsky seconds the motion, Vote: Minor – aye; Shestakofsky – aye; McGaw – aye; Cushman – aye. Motion passes 4-0.

End of recount: At approximately 12:23 p.m., the Board moves to dissolve the meeting; seconded; voted 4-0-0 all in favor.