

TOWN OF WOODFORD  
BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING  
WOODFORD TOWN HALL  
August 10, 2021 5:00 P.M.

Members present: Steve Wright, Virginia Utilitch, Maureen O'Neil, Charlene Foster, and Susan Wright

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Susan Wright, Clerk.

**2. Oath of Office**

Susan gave the oath of office to all board members present.

**3. Election of Chairperson**

Motion made by Maureen to appoint Charlene Foster as chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve. There being no further discussion, all were in favor; Motion Carries.

**4. Approval of Minutes-July 21, 2020**

The minutes were reviewed from July 21, 2020.

Motion made by Maureen to accept the minutes as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charlene. There being no further discussion, all were in favor, Motion Carries.

**5. Review Voter Checklist**

Susan presented a list of voters added to the checklist and a list of those removed since the last time the board did the bi-annual voter checklist review done on 7/30/2019. Forty voters had been added since that time and 48 were removed. She explained that many new registrations come directly from the DMV when driver's licenses are renewed unless the applicant checks the box not to register to vote. The deletions are from responses to challenge letters sent, no response to challenge letters and not voted in the last 2 general elections and agreed upon by the BCA, death notices or written authorization from the voter.

The board reviewed the current voter checklist as presented. Susan stated that there were no challenged voters from 2017 and therefore no one to be purged. Discussion followed as to who should be challenged from the current list. It was questioned whether or not a person who has not voted in the last two general elections but clearly is still a resident, has to be challenged. Susan responded that she reached out to the Secretary of State office regarding this. Their response was that "the rule is that the voter must be sent a challenge letter, and then, if they do not reply to the letter and they do not vote in two consecutive general elections, or any election in between, they may be removed".

Motion made by Charlene that all voters that are marked on the voter checklist and agreed upon by the board are to be sent challenge letters, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maureen. There being no further discussion, all were in favor, Motion Carries.

## 6. Other Business

Susan explained Act 60, the new election law recently passed. The most significant change is that, effective June 07, 2021, the Secretary of State's office will be mailing to all active voters, absentee ballots for the November general elections as they did in 2020. Envelopes and postage will be paid by the State. If the governing body of the town decides to do the same for local elections then everything is paid by the town. The school also has the option of mailing all ballots but must have approval of the governing body of each town they represent.

Another significant change is that if the clerk receives a ballot back but deems it defective, (the instructions were not followed correctly), then the clerk must notify the voter within 24 hours to notify them their ballot is defective so they may correct it. In the past, absentee ballots, once received, were considered final, the same as when a voter places their ballot in the ballot box on Election Day. If they were deemed defective according to the law, then they were not counted.

## 7. Adjourn

Motion made by Charlene to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maureen. There being no further discussion, all were in favor; Motion Carries.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Susan Wright- Clerk