

## ROVAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2025

Meeting was called to order by President Chris Prue (Vernon) at 10:00 am.

Members: Chris Prue (Vernon), Annalisa Stravato (Wilton), Karen Birck (Wilton), Sue Larsen (So. Windsor), Peter Gostin (New Britain), Jeff Rogers (Montville), Darlene Burrell (Suffield), Tracey Ohaus (Chester), Fred DeCaro (Greenwich), Christine Psathas, (Willington), Lisa Amatruda, (Woodbury), Lauren Olson (Ashford), Lisbeth Becker (Glastonbury), Pennell Hamilton (Woodbridge), Barbara Konow (Franklin), Christy Shafer (South Windsor), Frank McGarry (Thompson)

Highlighted in yellow are those in attendance.

- I. Minutes: The minutes were tabled as Sue Larsen (South Windsor) was not able to send them out in time for the meeting.
- II. Treasurer's Report: Frank McGarry (Thompson) reported we had \$64,504 of expenses. We paid the deposit for the Bristol Event Center of \$12,500. As a reminder, there is a convenience fee charge for the municipalities paying by credit card on the portal. Peter Gostin (New Britain) received a Schedule K which he is turning over to the accountants to handle.

### III. County Reports

Fairfield – Fred DeCaro (Greenwich) mailed in his county report. Sue Larsen spoke on legislative happenings. Monroe discussed their experience with ES&S. Fairfield will be ready with their county baskets. The next meeting will be May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Hartford County – Darlene Burrell (Suffield) reported Hartford County met last Tuesday. Jennifer Barahone, deputy Secretary of the State, was the guest speaker. She said she was with us to learn. 23 were there in person. Technology gave an extensive breakdown of what is happening. Anne Clark has retired. The next meeting is June 10<sup>th</sup> in Windsor.

Litchfield County – No report

Middlesex County-Tracey Ohaus (Chester) reported they met the end of February. Sue Larsen was their guest speaker on legislation. They will probably have another meeting in June.

New Haven – Pennell Hamilton (Woodbridge) reported they had a legislative update. Deputy Secretary Jennifer Barahone was their guest speaker and they had a surprise guest, Secretary Thomas. A big discussion was how to handle candidates during early voting in a municipal year.

New London – Jeff Rogers (Montville) reported they met on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Secretary Barahone was there also. She was shown how early voting had worked in Montville. Judi Davies (Lyme) has taken over as secretary. Jeff Rogers (Montville) requested a list of all certified registrars. We should be monitoring this ourselves.

Tolland – No report

Windham County – Lauren Olson (Ashford) reported they had a pot luck dinner. Frank McGarry (Thompson) spoke on finances. They discussed the need for early voting signatures. Town budgets were discussed as some towns are not getting additional funding and working for free. May 8<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting.

### IV. Committee Reports:

- *Conference Committee – Lauren Olson (Ashford) reported they have not met yet and the menu has not been finalized. Shopping will be done shortly.*
- *Education Committee – The agenda has been set. We still do not know the SOTS presentations. ES&S will have a lot contingency of staff there.*
- *Handbook Committee- Darlene Burrell (Suffield) reported she will be posting what the committee has worked on. 4 chapters have not been completed. Annalisa Stravato (Wilton) wanted the word version so Dalene Burrell (Suffield) will send it.*
- *Legislative Committee: Sue Larsen (South Windsor) reported the committee has continued to meet every week. Public hearings have started and many of the committee members have testified in person and in written form.*
- *Technology Committee – Lisbeth Becker (Glastonbury) reported they met on February 27<sup>th</sup>. SOTS was in attendance. Farmington is set up to do ES&S training and it will be open to nearby towns. A list of questions from that meeting was sent to Secretary Thomas.*

*The timing of Total Vote is that it will go live on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. CVRS will be shut down and that is a major concern since most times the older system remains live until the new replacement has been fully tested in a live environment. The use of scanners may be required. Darlene Burrell (Suffield) reminded everyone of her concern over write in candidates that may also be political candidates on a line and can we be able to see the ballots to review it.*

*Lisa Armaotruda (Woodbury) brought up that the timing of the roll out is terrible. SOTS is aware of it. Many small towns have BOE referenda at this time and they don't always pass the first go round. It will be difficult to start a new system with no backup and a referendum at the same time.*

*There are towns that have a lot of work to do to update their systems. We need to know which towns. Steve Mason is making sure the system is clean on his part.*

- *Ways & Means – Christy Shaher (South Windsor) reported she has reached out to all the members of the committee to make sure the county baskets are ready. Chris Prue (Vernon) has her list of supplies.*

#### *IV. Old Business:*

*The audit report has been put on file. Chris Prue (Vernon) got the actual invoice and proved we did not pay taxes to the hotel. They recommended 1 week to send in your reimbursements. We have quite a bit of money in the J Beaudreau scholarship fund. The scholarships are 2 per county and each scholarship is worth \$400. They recommended staggering terms for the auditors.*

*Peter Gostin (New Britain) says he has a name for every office. Nominations from the floor are still acceptable.*

*Annalisa Stravato (Wilton) will have the final version of the budget at the April meeting.*

*Darlene Burrell (Suffield) asked about FOI issues on a personal computer. FOI requests do open up your personal computer if you are using it for work. Annalisa Starvato (Wilton) says she has to turn back in the computer so that it can be cleaned by their IT. Flash drives can lead to security breaches.*

#### *V. New Business*

*Janet Sabovik and Peter Povone (Shelton) will be having a special election on April 22nd. Early Voting will occur over Easter Sunday. While the courts determine the election date, the Governor can determine holidays to be considered. The Court obviously did not look at the date.*

***Lisa Armatruda (Woodbury) motioned to support Shelton going to the Governor to recognize Easter as a holiday during the Special Election. Jeff Rogers (Montville) seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Chris Prue (Vernon) will contact Ryan Bingham of Sullivan & LeShane to get contacts in the Governor's office.***

*Darlene Burrell (Suffield) discussed that moderator training has been pushed to the sidelines and there are towns looking for training as elections and referenda are coming up. She has contacted Kristin Sullivan (SOTS).*

*SOTS will have 2 sessions at the conference. We are hoping the answers are consistent which has been a SOTS issue for many years.*

VI. *Other Business:*

*The next meeting will be April 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm in the Farmington Room at the Mariotte. Dinner will follow and the hospitality room will open at 6:00 pm.*

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.**

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Sue W. Larsen  
ROVAC Secretary*