

Hartford County ROVAC

January 9, 2024

Windsor Town Hall

Attending: 48 via zoom and 22 in person.

Chair Darlene Burrell, Suffield, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Lisbeth Becker, Glastonbury, asked to adjust the agenda since she had to leave early. This was granted. She reported Total Vote (new voter registration system) has a few issues with checking off people. The training is scheduled for May & June. CVRS will be active for 1 year. The new system is similar to CVRS but has more options such as allowing us to build reports. For new voters, the address will be GIS based. We are still hoping for a cheat sheet in order to do the clean up expected of us. Steve Mason will not do the changes.

Guest Speakers, Secretary Thomas and Deputy Secretary Jacqueline Kozin joined the meeting at 10:15.

The Secretary made a few points before answering questions. The staff is very limited but they will get to answering all questions. Plan A is to have CVRS and EMS updated for early voting by February. No Ink training will begin late April. The contract on training has not been signed. They are upgrading the poll worker manual for training purposes. SOTS is still working on the procurement process for the new tabulators. The General Assembly is meeting from January through early May. Early voting is in person and eligible voters can be found on the Voter look up tool. Custody of the ballots will be similar to Absentee Balloting. SOTS will provide envelopes similar to EDR. The ballots will be stored and counted on election day. We must account for each category (in person, EV, AB). There will be 4 days for Presidential Preference Primaries, 7 for primaries and 14 days for elections. EV will end on the Sunday before the election with the exception this year of Easter Sunday. Each municipality must have one location. If the municipality has over 20,000 in population, the local legislative body can approve additional locations. For primaries, a new voter can register and then vote the next day. For elections, the new voter can register and vote the same day. Handbook is 90% complete. UCONN should start training next month. Poll Books are still not on the approval track yet. Training dates for the new CVRS will be coming soon. SOTS will assist in training poll workers if the town requests help.

Questions:

Is EV a real polling location? It isn't in the sense that you need only a moderator and two poll workers for Curbside voting. The 75 ft sign and polling signs apply.

Do we need IVS? Yes

What must be included in the plan? Location of EV, Staffing, Chain of custody of the ballots

What can the Grant of \$10,500 be spent on? Only Early Voting Call your legislator if you want them to allocate money in the future.

What about canvass dates? Can mail on or between April 3rd and May 1st. ERIC will be out in late Jan to February.

Can you reactivate an inactive voter during EV? Yes

Will SOTS help if towns have a difficult time in getting a location? Yes

Do we use the same posters? Can we order them from SOTS? Some towns would like new sets for EV. No new signage required. SOTS has no money for new signs.

How will daily check off be done? Similar to AB, CVRS will do the check off.

What is the best storage for the ballots? Each town is different so the ROVs must choose the more secure locations.

How many ballot styles do we need? SDR ballot, AB ballot, EV ballot, regular ballot. The header will be different on each one.

Who is designing the EV envelope? SOTS

Any other forms will we need? Sots will get back to us.

Will EMS be able to handle EV voting? Yes

Is just stating the address of EV enough? We need a legal interpretation between building vs exact room.

How far do we need to go for curbside voting? You must go where they are able to park so if the location is the east side and they park on the west, you must go.

Must the EV location be certified? Yes

Darlene Burrell, Suffield, thanked Anita and Victoria for hosting the meeting. She thanked Jose from IT for assisting.

Anita Mips, Windsor, motioned to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

There was a reminder for the \$10 for the county baskets. Send the money to Susan Burnham 301 Sandstone Drive, South Windsor, CT 06074.

Audit: Donna Rusgrove, Burlington, reported that the audit took place on Aug 2nd. They reviewed the 5 accounts. Their report stated all expenses should be submitted within 1 week. Bundling of expenses by month was OK.

Conference: Anne Clark, Avon, reported the conference would be April 10, 11, and 12 at the Bristol Event Center. The DoubleTree Hotel is in the same complex. Chris Prue, ROVAC President, will send out the information when the room block is available. Information on the Judi Beaudreau Scholarship will come out later.

Credentials: Anita Mips, Windsor, had no report.

Education: Sue Larsen, South Windsor – No report because Melissa Russell, Bethlehem, resigned as Registrar and she was the Education Chair.

Handbook: Darlene Burrell, Suffield, reported there is an update coming.

Legislative: Theresa Avey reported that the committee will meet Jan. 17th.

Around Thanksgiving the committee went through the survey.

Nominating: Peter Gostin, New Britain, said this year was the county elections. Darlene Burrell, Suffield, said Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are the positions. Committees are every year.

Old Business: None

New Business:

There were several questions:

What kind of advertising of EV are we doing? Mailings, website, newspaper

Is SDR similar to EDR? Yes, but there was confusion whether or not EDR was still the term for election day.

There was an issue about power outages but the emergency plan should be updated for it.

An issue about Halloween being one of the 14 days was discussed. Could it be swapped like Easter Sunday because of security concerns. It would be brought to the Legislative Committee.

We are waiting for the EV presentation from SOTS.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50.

The next meeting will be June 12, 2024 in Windsor.

Submitted by,

Sue W. Larsen

County Secretary