

**MIDDLESEX BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY
Tuesday, November 10, 2015
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915**

Minutes

Present: Select Board members Peter Hood, Mary Just Skinner, Bill Callnan, Steve Martin, and Liz Scharf, Justices of the Peace Theo Kennedy, Doug Lombard, Charlie Merriman and Town Clerk Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order: Peter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Opening the Polls at 8 a.m.

The Board discussed holding earlier poll hours starting at the March 1, 2016 Town Meeting and Presidential Primary so more people could vote before they went to work.

Motion: Mary moved and Doug seconded a motion to open the polls at 8 a.m. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Using Tabulators to Count Votes at Town Meeting and All Subsequent Elections

While the VT Legislature has mandated that towns with more than 1,000 voters use tabulators starting in 2016, according to the Vermont Secretary of State's Office that does *not* include Australian ballots at Town Meeting nor Presidential Primaries because they are not "elections." That means, the town will not receive \$500 from the state per election to program the tabulators – which each town will get for free. State funding will start with the statewide primary in August which, apparently, *is* an election. Therefore, it is up to each town to decide whether to use tabulators at town meetings.

Peter noted that the Select Board's recommendation was to begin using tabulators for all vote counting beginning with the 2016 Town Meeting. Bill Callnan said the town might as well start then instead of waiting for the summer. Sarah said Middlesex voters have already used the ballots at the statewide primary and general election in 2014.

MOTION: Bill moved and Steve seconded using tabulators to count votes from the March 1, 2016 Town Meeting onwards. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

MOTION: Doug moved and Steve seconded approval of the February 10, 2015 BCA minutes. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Peter declared the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Merriman
Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant