TOWN OF HYDE PARK
BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING
January 19, 2021

Virtual Meeting Via Conference Call Due to COVID-19

Present: Brickett Bailey, Richard Bailey, Susan Bartlett and Kim Moulton

Others Present: No others present

S. Bartlett called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

   1)   Set 2021 Town Meeting Polling Location and Polling Hours:

S. Bartlett stated that the Selectboard had recently voted to move the town meeting warning articles from a floor meeting to be voted by Australian Ballot. Since the town meeting polls are currently located at the Lamoille Union High School, we need to set the location and the time of the polls for town meeting. R. Bailey made a motion that was seconded by R. Bailey to move the polls from LUHS to the town office with polling hours of 8:30am to 7:00pm. B. Bailey asked what the normal poll hours were at town meeting. K. Moulton stated the polls are always open from 8:30am to 7:00pm on town meeting day. B. Bailey asked about being open for the people on their way to work. S. Bartlett stated that the polls would be open until 7:00pm and absentee ballots would be available. R. Bailey asked about the school district ballots. K. Moulton stated they are producing their own ballots which will be taken to the school district to be comingled with the rest of the district ballots and counted. Town ballots will be going through the tabulator. Motion passed unanimously.

   2)   Agenda item added: Processing absentee ballots prior to town meeting:

K. Moulton stated that Governor Scott just signed H.48 today. This act allows municipalities to make some changes to the way town meetings are being held due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also allowing the Secretary of States office to change some procedures similar to what they were for the primary and general election. One of the changes was to allow municipalities to process absentee ballots into the tabulator 30 days prior to the election. Current statute allows the BCA to approve processing absentee ballots within 24 hours of the election. K. Moulton is asking the board to allow the processing of the ballots 24 hours prior to town meeting in the event that the Secretary of State does not authorize processing them 30 days prior to town meeting. B. Bailey made a motion that was seconded by R. Bailey to process absentee ballots 24 hours prior to town meeting, as provided by statute, and to process sooner if the Secretary of State approves processing absentee ballots within 30 days prior to town meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

   3)   Other Business:

There was no other business.

R. Bailey made a motion that was seconded by B. Bailey to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.