

**Meeting Date:** March 12, 2020

**Members:** Sue Larsen (S. Windsor), Chris Prue (Vernon), Lauren Olson (Ashford), Bonnie Anderson (Cromwell), Tim Beeble (Bethel), Anne-Marie Mastroianni (Bethlehem), Annalisa Stravato (Wilton) Mike Wyman (Tolland), Lisbeth Becker (Glastonbury), Tim DeCarlo (Waterbury), Dianne Slopak (New London), Pete Gostin (New Britain)

Meeting was called to order by President Sue Larsen at 10:04

**I. The agenda:** Sue Larsen requested the suspension of the agenda for the March 12, 2020 meeting. A motion to suspend the agenda was made by Anne- Marie Mastroianni and seconded by Mike Wyman. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Discussion:** The Governor announced a state of emergency in the State of Connecticut. He has banned all travel and public appearances within large groups of state employees. The Secretary of State's office has cancelled attendance of her staff from both the Town Clerks conference, and Registrar of Voters Conference. Chris has spoken with the hotel for the Spring Conference and reread the contract. Because the Governor has declared the state of emergency, we can cancel the conference at no cost to us. A motion to cancel the ROVAC Spring Conference was made by Ann-Marie Mastroianni and seconded by Tim DeCarlo. The motion passed unanimously. ROVAC treasurer will start to issue refund checks to those towns who had already paid for the conference. Chris Prue will work on refunding conference funds that were paid by credit card.

**III. Annual Meeting Discussion:** The agenda for this year's annual meeting was the county reports and the budget. A meeting will be scheduled for a later date prior to June 30. County reports can be shared by email. The annual meeting will need fifty people to attend for a quorum.

**IV. Meeting with Scott Bates, Shannon Wegele and Shirley Surgeon:** Sue Larsen, Annalisa Stravato and Lauren Olson met, also with the executive board of the Town Clerks and two others from Mr. Bates office. Discussed that some ideas can just be implemented or does there need to be legislation. Discussed how to be proactive and work together to hold the primaries. We also discussed ideas that we had already thought about for our towns. These will be listed below as a part of the discussion ROVAC board had today at our meeting. SOTS also would like lists of poll workers from each town, by county, that can be shared with other towns. Contact your county to get these lists done.

**V. Suggestions and questions to pose to SOTS prior to conference call on Tuesday 3/17/2020:**

- Can some of the deadlines for changing polling places be changed.
- Can we change the date or cancel the primaries.

- Cancel the Republican primary.
- Is it a possibility to have 100% mail-in ballots. What would the impact be?
- Consolidation of polling places within a district without having to have the general election in the same location. This would alleviate the shortage of poll workers. Legal teams from SOTS and the Governor's office are looking into this. If we change polling locations would we still need to mail a notice (Title 9) to every voter, etc. or could we just use media. Can we reuse reverse 911.
- SOTS could put out a public notice that towns are looking for poll workers. Already talking to Town Clerks.
- Put out lists of poll workers and ask what the top three towns these workers would be willing to work.
- Guidelines for how to provide supervised balloting in nursing homes where the public is no longer permitted to enter. Could you make the workers of the institution assistant registrars. What if the workers don't agree to be sworn in.
- Can we have remote access to CVRS
- Is it a possibility to have 100% mail-in ballots. What would the impact be?
- Can we have SOTS direct the state and local police take care of emergency absentee ballots
- Can we use fewer poll workers if we can not fill the positions. Official checker and ballot clerk can be one person.
- If schools are closed, can we still use them? Otherwise, where will a back-up place be?
- What happens if all our election administration workers are quarantined. This is why the date of the primary should be moved later. What happens if a part of a town is quarantined and their polling place is outside their quarantined area.
- Can SOTS agree to allow moderators decide how many privacy booths we use.
- Give registrars some leeway to make decisions that work for us, and show public support for us.
- Have Registrars become Assistant Town Clerks.
- Emergency absentee ballots, can we make the process easier.

Other ideas from Registrars that you may want to employ:

- Wipe down pens and privacy booths
- Provide hand sanitizer for when voters enter the polls.
- Don't touch the ID's
- Don't reuse privacy folders. Let the voter pick one up if they need, and then deposit on the way out but don't reuse them.
- Make two packets of absentee ballots and supplies in case the Clerk's office is quarantined.

**VI. Legislative Committee:** Right now the LOB is closed. There are no public hearings. We may have to cancel ROVAC day at the Capital. There are two bills of interest to us that are still possible. HB5524 and HB5521. One is our tech bill and the other is our EDR bill without EDR past 8PM. They may have a closed meeting and then adjourn early.

Tim would like to request more funds to further expand our public presence to be ready for November. After discussion about what we have spent and is it already covered, the minutes from October 10 were read. *(A motion was made by L. Becker to increase the budget from \$20,000 to \$25,000 for the PR and Lobbying contract. There was no second. A motion to increase the budget from \$20,000 to \$30,000 for the PR and Lobbying contract with Sullivan and LeShane was made by A. Mastroianni and seconded by L. Becker. The motion passed.)* It was then agreed that we had enough for this year to cover what Tim thought we needed. We will discuss at the annual meeting adding a line in the budget for PR with Sullivan and LeShane.

**VII. Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was made by Tim DeCarlo and seconded by Mike Wyman 12:10 PM. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren L. Olson  
Registrar of Voters  
Town of Ashford  
ROVAC Secretary