

ELECTRONIC VOTING STUDY COMMITTEE

MINUTES January 12, 2015

Attendees: Ellen Baxendale, Josh Degen, Mark Haddad, Becky Pine, Michael Bouchard, Michael Bettano, Michael Manugian, Bud Robertson

Not Present: Jason Kauppi

Meeting was called to order at 4:33 by Mr. Manugian.

Motion to accept the minutes of the December 22, 2014 meeting, as amended, was unanimously approved. Mr. Degen abstained.

Mr. Bettano is assuming Mr. Davis' position on the Committee. Mr. Bettano briefed the Committee on a second electronic voting vendor, Meridia Interactive Solutions. He distributed their product brochures. Mr. Bettano described some of the different systems. Ms. Pine commented that the system appeared to be designed for classroom-type use, and asked if we could really use it for town meeting. Mr. Degen asked for a follow up with the company as to how many cities and towns anywhere in the country use the system for town meetings, and references we could contact. He was also interested in large venues where the system has been used.

Meridia's business model is to sell the equipment, and to provide phone support. The town would purchase the equipment and devices with a two year warranty.

Committee members had a number of questions about the system's operation. Mr. Bettano captured screenshots from the phone/web demo with Meridia, but it wasn't available for this meeting. The Committee expressed an interest in viewing the screenshots.

Mr. Manugian suggested that the Committee obtain another vendor quote to get a better comparison to OTI. Quizdom was suggested. It was stated that the town of Billerica uses Quizdom's system. Mr. Degen commented that Michael Rosa be contacted. Mr. Rosa is a Billerica Selectman, but is also involved in Groton's Lost Lake committee's as a part-time resident. Mr. Haddad offered to contact Mr. Rosa.

Mr. Haddad commented on an article regarding cheating at Dartmouth College while using electronic test taking. He stated this point out a risk with electronic voting, essentially the issue of "proxy voting". Ms. Pine stated that the security of today's vote in the openness of the vote. Mr. Haddad agreed that the integrity of the vote is a paramount consideration. Hand counted votes have not been questioned, even though we have had very close votes.

The next agenda item was to review the draft presentation offered by Mr. Manugian. Mr. Manugian offered the draft as a way for the Committee to organize and document its thinking. Mr. Manugian took detailed notes during this review. A motion to accept changes made to the draft presentation was unanimous. Homework for the next meeting is for each member to complete slides 25 through 29 for

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discussion at the next meeting .Mr. Haddad expressed sincere appreciation for Mr. Manugian's initiative and work in preparing the draft.

The Committee agreed to schedule a public hearing. It is planned for Monday February 9 at 7:30, during the Selectmen's meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday January 26 at 4:30 in the Second Floor Meeting Room. The agenda will include:

- Vendor updates
- Compile, review and discuss member's input from draft presentation slides 25 through 29.
- Finish the presentation for use in the public hearing.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 Pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Bouchard