

## Select Board Special Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2023, Meeting (Hybrid)

Via Zoom Platform

Select Board Members Present: Kristen Reed-Chair, Susan Areson-Vice Chair, John Dundas-Clerk, Robert Weinstein-Member, Stephanie Rein-Member

Select Board Members Absent:

Others Present: Darrin Tangeman-Town Manager; Kelly Clark-Assistant Town Manager; Town Clerk Elisabeth Verde; Tim Hickey (Truro Voter); Susan Chapman (Truro Voter); Wes (Eric) Chapman (Truro Voter); Julie Cataldo-Roda (Truro Voter); Heather Harper (Truro Voter)

Chair Reed called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and read the information for the public to access the meeting on Channel 8 and participate. Chair Reed introduced the Members and Town staff present.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Prior to recognizing any individual for public comment, Chair Reed read aloud the ground rules regarding public comment. There were no public comments.

### **BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

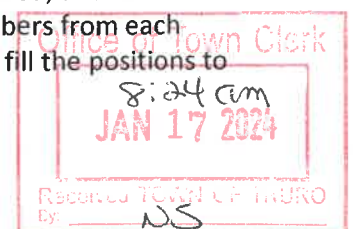
A. Interview and Possible Appointments to the Board of Registrars: Susan Chapman, Wes (Eric) Chapman, Julie Cataldo-Roda (joined virtually), Heather Harper, Juliana MacAller (withdrew)

Chair Reed recognized Town Clerk Verde who explained the process and the need for two Republicans to fill two seats on the Board of Registrars.

Chair Reed recognized Town Manager Tangeman who stated that after consultation with Town Counsel, these appointments would be temporary under M.G.L. Chapter 51, Section 20. Town Manager Tangeman noted, under advice from Town Counsel, the Town had to still confirm Mr. Hickey's status as the Local Republican Town Committee Chairperson. Town Manager Tangeman recommended that these two appointments be for 60 days to give Mr. Hickey the legally required 45 days to obtain his notification letter from the Republican Party.

Chair Reed recognized Vice Chair Areson who asked how this situation arose and if the Town had been operating inappropriately for a period of time. If so, for how long? Vice Chair Areson commented that there had been two resignations from the Board of Registrars. Town Manager Tangeman stated there was no issue of operating inappropriately.

Town Clerk Verde said that for the most recent election in April, it was her understanding that that the Board of Registrars had most recently been made up of two Democrats, one unenrolled, and one Republican. Town Clerk Verde added that it is not legally required to have two members from each major political party appointed to the Board of Registrars, but a municipality should fill the positions to



the best of its ability. Town Clerk Verde stated that when she became the town clerk, she became an “*ex officio*” member of the Board of Registrars and that resulted in the removal of a member. Town Clerk Verde then reviewed the composition of the entire board and stated that this was now an opportunity to follow the law more closely.

Chair Reed recognized Mr. Hickey who stated that until Town Manager Tangeman told him this afternoon that the Town had to confirm his status with the Republican Party he had been serving as the Local Republican Town Committee Chairperson. Mr. Hickey expressed concern that he was unable to speak with the candidates and properly vet them.

Chair Reed noted that this deliberation was not on the agenda and the Select Board had already received a legal opinion from the Town Counsel that it could move forward with the interviews. Chair Reed then recognized Town Manager Tangeman who replied to Mr. Hickey’s concern.

Since Vice Chair Areson and Member Rein raised concerns and questions from constituents regarding voter registration, Chair Reed stated that there are no current complaints and challenges to a voter’s registration, but the Select Board was legally bound under statute to do this work.

Chair Reed recognized Mr. Hickey who voiced concern that two of the candidates for the Board of Registrars are employed by the Town of Truro and the urgent timing of these appointments appeared to be an effort to challenge a voter’s registration status if one voted on articles on the upcoming Town Meeting’s floor.

Chair Reed then stated that Mr. Hickey was not a part of this procedure as he has not been verified with the Republican Party so this session would proceed.

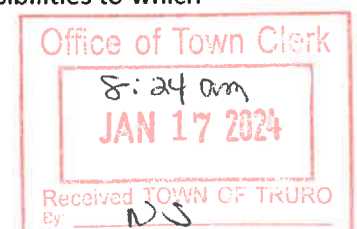
Vice Chair Areson asked Town Clerk Verde if it was possible for a voter’s status in Truro to be challenged by a complainant prior to the upcoming Town Meeting. Town Clerk Verde replied that timing would be an issue as it was legally required to send a summons to the voter within 2-14 days upon receipt of the complaint and that there were currently no voter registration challenges or complaints.

Chair Reed then recognized Mr. Hickey who noted that there was confusion about this process and noted that his wife, Ms. MacAller (an applicant), could not serve on the Board of Registrar. Mr. Hickey said that under Massachusetts law, as she currently serves as the secretary for the Local Republican Town Committee, she withdrew her application. Town Clerk Verde explained the process for individuals to apply for the Board of Registrars in order to make the process easier and attract more applicants.

Vice Chair Areson noted that Town Clerk Verde had previously been appointed to the Board of Registrars so she would not be interviewed. Town Manager Tangeman confirmed this.

Member Hickey asked Chair Reed if he would have an opportunity to ask a candidate a question during the interview as a voter and Chair Reed replied that she would make that decision and she was unsure if she would allow that.

Member Rein asked if it was appropriate to ask a candidate if that candidate has read the applicable laws and regulations regarding the Board of Registrar’s legal authority and responsibilities to which Chair Reed stated in the affirmative.



Chair Reed led the interview of Ms. Chapman with the Members who thanked Ms. Chapman for her interest and asked questions pertaining to aspects of the role.

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Mr. Hickey requested a point of privilege and was recognized by Chair Reed. Mr. Hickey reiterated that he was the chair of the Local Republican Town Committee and requested that this procedure be suspended without a vote as he has been unable to properly vet the other three applicants. Mr. Hickey further stated that he would be happy to speak with the other three candidates. Chair Reed announced that the Select Board will continue with the procedure.

Chair Reed led the interview of Ms. Harper with the Members who thanked Ms. Harper for her interest and asked questions pertaining to aspects of the role. Member Rein and Vice Chair Areson both noted that Ms. Harper's application stood out from the other applicants as Ms. Harper wrote that she was interested in the role *"to help protect voter's rights and electoral integrity."*

Chair Reed led the interview of Ms. Cataldo-Roda with the Members who thanked Ms. Cataldo-Roda for her interest and asked questions pertaining to aspects of the role. Chair Reed asked Ms. Cataldo-Roda if Mr. Hickey had contacted her, to which she replied that Mr. Hickey had contacted her mother, so Mr. Hickey had the wrong number.

Chair Reed then asked Ms. Harper if Mr. Hickey had contacted her and she replied in the affirmative. Ms. Harper also said that she did not hang up on him as the conversation had concluded.

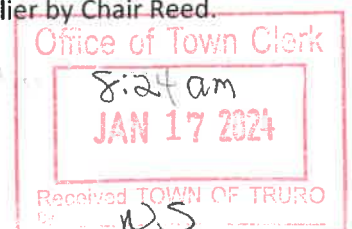
Mr. Hickey requested a point of privilege and was recognized by Chair Reed. Mr. Hickey stated that he and Ms. Harper had briefly spoken and that she had answered only one question before she hung up on him. Chair Reed thanked him and reminded Mr. Hickey of the definition of point of privilege.

Chair Reed then asked the Members for their comments regarding the candidates. Member Dundas asked if the Republican chair should have an opportunity to speak with all of the candidates to his satisfaction and delay the vote on appointments for one more meeting. Chair Reed replied that she did not agree at all with that suggestion.

Member Rein, Member Weinstein, Vice Chair Areson, and Chair Reed stated that they were prepared to move forward in accordance with the Town Counsel's legal opinion and the recommendations of Town Manager Tangeman and Town Clerk Verde prior to Town Meeting.

Vice Chair Areson recommended the appointments of Mr. Chapman and Ms. Harper. Member Dundas recommended the appointments of Mr. Chapman and Ms. Cataldo-Roda. Member Weinstein recommended the appointments of Ms. Harper and Ms. Cataldo-Roda. Member Rein recommended the appointments of Ms. Harper and Ms. Cataldo-Roda. Chair Reed recommended the appointments of Ms. Harper and Ms. Cataldo-Roda.

Chair Reed recognized Ms. Chapman who clarified a comment that was made earlier by Chair Reed.



**Chair Reed made a motion to appoint Heather Harper to the Board of Registrars for a 60-day term expiring on December 12, 2023.**

**Member Weinstein seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Vice Chair Areson - Aye**

**Member Dundas - Aye**

**Member Weinstein - Aye**

**Member Rein - Aye**

**Chair Reed – Aye**

**So voted, 5-0-0, motion carries.**

**Chair Reed made a motion to appoint Julie Cataldo-Roda to the Board of Registrars for a 60-day term expiring on December 12, 2023.**

**Member Weinstein seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Vice Chair Areson - Aye**

**Member Dundas - Aye**

**Member Weinstein - Aye**

**Member Rein - Aye**

**Chair Reed – Aye**

**So voted, 5-0-0, motion carries.**

Chair Reed congratulated Ms. Harper and Ms. Cataldo-Roda.

Chair Reed recognized Town Manager Tangeman for a point of clarification who confirmed that Mr. Hickey has been verified as the Local Republican Town Committee Chairperson as of May 10, 2023, and this made no difference in this process. Mr. Hickey will have the ability to submit a list of candidates for the Board of Registrars on December 12, 2023.

**Member Rein made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 am.**

**Vice Chair Areson seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Vice Chair Areson - Aye**

**Member Dundas - Aye**

**Member Weinstein - Aye**

**Member Rein - Aye**

**Chair Reed – Aye**

**So voted, 5-0-0, motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

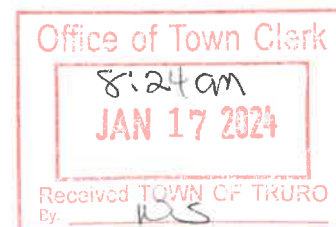


Alexander O. Powers

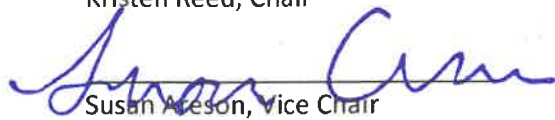
Board/Committee/Commission Support Staff



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Kristen Reed, Chair

  
Susan Areson, Vice Chair

  
John Dundas, Clerk

  
Stephanie Rein, Member

  
Robert Weinstein, Member

**Public Records Material Attachments**

Legal Notice

