



Patrick J. Ward, Town Clerk

Town of Brookline

Massachusetts

Town Hall, 1st Floor
333 Washington Street
Brookline, MA 02445-6899
(617) 730-2010 Fax (617) 730-2043

MODERATOR'S AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ELECTRONIC VOTING

**JANUARY 30, 2012
MINUTES**

The meeting of the Moderator's Ad Hoc Committee on Electronic Voting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.. Present were Chairman Robert Stein, Moderator Edward (Sandy) Gadsby, Joel Shoner, , IT Director Kevin Stokes, Neil Wishinsky, and Patrick Ward.

The committee reviewed several issues concerning the hand held devices. Chairman Stein stated that there was no reason to request the more expensive devices because of the way the town conducts its business at Town Meeting.

Neil Wishinsky stated that he believes that the feedback to users and increased security warrant the purchase of the more expensive devices with their encryption capacity.

Chairman Stein stated that the encryption capacity of the more expensive devices seems to be aimed at low level hackers messing with the data. He argued that it was implausible for that to occur since the window of opportunity for them would be no longer than 30 seconds. He added that the more expensive devices would effectively double the cost.

Moderator Edward (Sandy) Gadsby, stated that Stanley Spiegel had left a message with him stating his belief of the importance of the feedback to the users. Mr. Gadsby stated that he disagreed with the importance of feedback since you still have the scroll of the screen.

Chairman Stein noted that if you use feedback and not the scrolling then you are in trouble. Mr. Wishinsky disagreed. He stated that once the user becomes comfortable with the device the scroll would become unnecessary and we will be able to cut down the amount of time the process takes.

Mr. Gadsby stated that the important votes are the ones that you would want to see the scroll and that type of feedback is absolutely necessary.

Chairman Stein stated the time a hacker has to do something is when you scroll and when the vote is finalized and that amounts to a five second interval.

The committee had a brief discussion on a budget recommendation for FY13.

Mr. Gadsby suggested that we should hear from the other vendor because he would like the members to compare their products.

Chairman Stein suggested that skipping next week would probably be helpful and we should begin to think of scheduling a final meeting. It was decided by the committee to meet on February 13.

Director of Information Technologies asked what's different this time than several years ago when these devices were last considered. Chairman Stein responded by stating that the cost is certainly cheaper; the comfort level with such devices is higher and technology is better. Mr. Gadsby stated that there is also more comfort with the security.

There was a brief discussion of storage, battery replacement and distribution and software issue. Mr. Wishinsky stated that he would like to have the committee to express that the Information Technology Department staff this system until the Town Clerk's staff is comfortable with it. The committee so agreed.

Chairman Stein stated that the audio-visual component was cheaper than we had anticipated – noting that one of the vendors will come back with more information. Chairman Stein stated that the preliminary cost of \$10,000 for the projector was based on the 7,000 lumens recommended by the vendor. Chairman Stein stated that he believed we need 12,000 lumens which would effectively double the cost of the projector. He noted that ambient lighting determines everything. He also stated that we would require a media link controller and a supplemental control panel on stage. He noted that the controller would cost about \$2,000.

Chairman Stein stated that one of the vendors, ValleyCom, stated that the screen on stage is a perfectly good screen and for the sake of saving \$5,000 just drop the screen 10 feet to obtain the 16 x 10 format.

Chairman Stein stated if we want a podium audio tie-in then the controller should be placed at the podium, probably with a lap-top for presentations. He also added that no HDMI system would be necessary.

Mr. Gadsby stated that he would like to see what the projection looks like under Town Meeting conditions. Chairman Stein stated that ValleyCom has local personnel and perhaps we can obtain a demonstration from them.

Mr. Wishinsky stated that if the hand helds and the software come in on the high side at \$15,000 then we are looking at an appropriation of \$23,000. He noted that if we go to the expensive hand held devices then we are looking at an appropriation on the high side of \$43,000.

The committee then reviewed what the scrolling might look like in various formats (alpha order; precinct order and color coded). There were questions about what accommodations could be made for

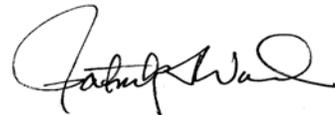
Town Meeting Members with sight disabilities. Mr. Wishinsky stated that he would like to see the hand held devices be able to vibrate in order to accommodate people with sight difficulties.

The committee then reviewed the voting process. Mr. Gadsby stated that it would require 35 Town Meeting members to have a recorded vote and 7 Town Meeting Members to challenge a vote. Mr. Gadsby stated that as to the Moderator's declaration or the 7 Town Meeting members we just need a count but the 35 Town Meeting Members has to be recorded. Mr. Wishinsky asked whether the vendor could make that distinction.

The committee briefly discussed the audio-visual once again. Mr. Stokes stated that the school department is looking at a new AV system for the high school. He noted that perhaps they could cover that cost component and the town could just pay for the hand held devices.

The meeting was ADJOURNED at 8:20 P.M.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick J. Ward", written in a cursive style.

Patrick J. Ward
Secretary