

**TOWN OF ARLINGTON**  
**TOWN MEETING ELECTRONIC VOTING STUDY COMMITTEE**

*December 19, 2012*

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Town Meeting Electronic Voting Study Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Eric Helmuth in the Second Floor Meeting Room of the Town Hall Annex on Wednesday, December 19, 2012, at 7:50 pm.

*Quorum*

A quorum was present: Elizabeth Patton, Raymond Charbonneau III, Steve Storch, Wes Beal, Adam Auster, and Eric Helmuth.

**Approval of Minutes**

MOTION:

*Correction of  
Minutes*

Steve Storch moved that the minutes of the December 5, 2012, meeting be corrected by deleting the phrase “a copy of which is attached to these minutes” from the description of his draft of “Electronic Voting: Benefits and Costs” on page 1.

The motion passed.

MOTION:

*Approval of  
Minutes*

Wes Beal moved that the minutes of the December 5, 2012, meeting be approved as corrected.

The motion passed.

**Reports**

*Chair:*

*Town Clerk*

Committee Chair Eric Helmuth reported that he and John Leone met earlier that day with Town Clerk Stephanie Lucarelli and members of her staff.

He said that the Clerk had no objections in principle to changing the methods of voting to include electronic voting, though she wanted to be sure that her office was not given new responsibilities without the means to carry them out.

According to Mr. Helmuth, the Clerk told him and Mr. Leone that said that the law requires her office to keep paper. Consequently, she said, she would keep paper records produced by the electronic-voting system.

Mr. Helmuth reported that the Clerk offered to ask other town clerks to how they are handling records-keeping in light of electronic voting.

He noted that some issues related to retention of data might be discussed with David Good, Arlington's Chief Technology Officer, who plans to attend the Committee's January 2 meeting.

Mr. Helmuth said the Clerk's staff expressed enthusiasm for electronic voting.

### **New Business**

#### *Costs and Benefits of Electronic Voting*

Adam Auster led a discussion of the costs and benefits of different possible implementations of electronic voting.

The Committee considered the implications of the following possible implementations:

- quick tally in which only totals are reported,
- quick tally in which the roll-call results are reported only the next day or later,
- electronic roll call with no publication or retention of results,
- electronic roll call with results published.

The Committee compared these with the current voting methods (voice, standing, and traditional roll call) that they might replace, against such costs and benefits as time, accountability, cost, accuracy, curatorial burden, and potential for fraud or error.

#### MOTION: *Request for Information*

Raymond Charbonneau moved to appoint Steve Storch, Elizabeth Patton, and himself to a subcommittee to work on a request for information to vendors.

The motion passed.

#### MOTION: *Adjournment*

Wes Beal moved to adjourn.

The motion passed.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Adam Auster, *Secretary*

**Corrections**

Alan Jones's name was deleted from the list of members counting towards a quorum on page 1. The words "saddled with" were changed to "given" in the Chair's remarks on page 1. The words "an impressive level of" were deleted from the Chair's remarks on page 2 (leaving "expressed enthusiasm").

**APPROVED**

as corrected

January 2, 2013

Adam Auster, *Secretary*