

BOARD OF RECOUNT

November 8, 1999

12:00 PM

Deputy Clerk Johnson called the meeting to order.

Present: Alderman Shea, Paul Alfano, John Durkin

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised a motion was in order to elect a chairman. On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Mr. Alfano, it was voted to elect John Durkin Chairman of the Committee.

Chairman Durkin addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Presentation of requests for recounts and proposed rules to be presented by the Deputy City Clerk. The Board shall be requested to set a date for Recounts.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that there were recounts requested in three races: Mr. Murphy, Ward 3 Selectmen race; Mr. Boyd, Ward 11 School Committee race; and Ms. Mann, Ward 1, Ward Clerk race.

Proposed rules were presented to the Committee. Discussion ensued where Chairman Durkin noted that he felt it better not to have tally sheets, but to count the votes directly from the ballots. The ballots were to be placed in piles for the candidates and then counted all at once at the conclusion. In his opinion, it was an easier way to ensure there were no errors in the counting.

In response to questions raised by Alderman Shea and Mr. Alfano, Deputy Clerk Johnson outlined the general process traditionally followed in a municipal or state recount.

Discussion moved to the purpose of the recount. Chairman Durkin noted that in the past the City had taken the same view as the present Secretary of State, William Gardner, in that the recount is simply that, a recount of the votes cast. Questions on other matters could be appealed through another process, the Ballot Law Commission or Court under the law.

For informational purposes Deputy Clerk Johnson distributed a communication referencing the Ward 11 race where some concerns had been raised. She noted that Mr. Girard was present and had requested to address the committee regarding this race.

Mr. Girard was permitted to address the committee and raised concerns relating to the absentee ballot process, the numbers relating to absentee ballots and the rulings by the moderator regarding some challenged ballots.

After brief discussion, members of the Board concurred that it would follow the same rules as in the past, that being that they would count the votes cast, appropriately mark challenges to their findings, and let the higher authorities rule on other matters as provided by law.

On motion made by Alderman Shea, and duly seconded by Mr. Alfano, it was voted to amend the rules to count the ballots rather than having tally sheets, and accept the rules as amended; and further to hold the recount on November 17, 1999 commencing at 3:00 PM. The clerk was requested to so notify the candidates involved.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Mr. Alfano, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee