

Village of Martin's Additions
7013 Brookville Road, Suite B, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Election Committee Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2020
7:30PM

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

Election Committee Members Present: Tiffany Cissna; George McAleese; Josh Bowers. **Village Manager:** Niles Anderegg. **Council Member(s):** Todd Mann. **Residents and any other Attendees:** Jean Sperling and Bill Catherwood (Shepherd Street).

7:30PM Call to Order: Cissna

Resident Comments

There were no opening resident comments

Discuss Committee researched options and possibly decide on Committee-recommendation to Council

Each committee member briefly summarized his/her research.

- Josh Bowers submitted a written report to the committee of his findings on researching an electronic option. His research on electronic voting was constrained to internet-only voting, due to the possibility of social distancing requirements and gatherings limits remaining in place. He concluded that internet-only voting, given our relatively small number of eligible voters and its seeming lack of historic use in municipalities in the U.S., would not be an option he recommended.
- George McAleese researched hybrid options (i.e., electronic – both internet-only and in-person on tablets/machines – combined with some sort of paper and/or in-person options). Mr. McAleese found several vendors with experience in providing hybrid options with varying levels of complexity and options for how to execute. He explained that exact process, security, pricing, etc. would vary based off of the options selected. He also concurred with some of the concerns expressed by Mr. Bowers in areas of overlap.
- Mrs. Cissna provided a brief overview of the pros and cons of 100 percent mail-in only and in-person voting. In-person voting is clearly the most secure and preferable community-building option. However, it does come with increased volunteer burden leading up to the election, especially if the committee is running an absentee ballot process as required by the State. The committee was also uncertain about what the State and County requirements would be for social distancing and gatherings next May. Regarding 100 mail-in, there are several vendors who could run a 100 percent mail-in election, similar to what was employed in last year's election. Such is manageable for a municipality our size with relative confidence in its voter roll and would fulfill the State absentee ballot requirement. Though, it was noted that mail-in is not as secure as in-person voting,

After a brief discussion, the committee coalesced around making a recommendation that that a 100 percent mail-in option be the back-up plan to in-person voting for the Council. George McAleese made the motion and Josh Bowers seconded. All voted in favor.

Related Election 2021 planning

The committee agreed to update current policy and procedure documents for Council review commensurate with the unanimously reached recommendation above in advance of the October Council meeting.

Opportunity for the Committee to hear resident comments: Cissna

Jean Sperling (Shepherd Street) asked about how the voter rolls were created and procedures for changes. Manager Niles Anderegg explained the procedures currently in place. Ms. Sperling also expressed interest in ensuring community education about what our municipality is and does within the context of why our elections are important.

Adjournment: Cissna

Josh Bowers moved that the meeting adjourn. George McAleese seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.