



CITY OF ANSONIA BOARD OF ALDERMEN Special Meeting – September 25, 2013

Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Aldermanic President Gene Sharkey. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Roll Call

The secretary called the roll:

Edward Adamowski, D1- absent
Peter Marcinko, D1 - absent
Charles Stowe, R2 - present
Philip Tripp, R2 - present
Kevin Mott, D3- present
Joseph Jeanette, D3 - present
Jerome Fainer, D4 - present

Anthony DeLucia, D4 - present
Howard Madigosky, D5 - present
Joan Radin, R5 - present
Scott Nihill, D6-absent
John Marini, R7 - absent
David Knapp, D7 - present
Gene Sharkey, D6 - present

President Sharkey declared a quorum of 10 present, 4 absent.

Corrections to Converse Voting System and Take Appropriate Action

Mr. Maffeo and Mrs. Valentine, Registrars of Voters

Mr. Maffeo stated, thank you all for coming tonight, we appreciate the urgency. The issue of streets came to our attention earlier this year with Granite Terrace. After fixing that particular problem, we decided it would be appropriate for the Registrars to look at all of the streets in town. We first began with the boundary streets because in our judgment that is the area where most mistakes might be possible. After determining that the narrative kind of matched our map with some technical changes required, we then looked at every single street in town and matched it with the correct Ward. Indeed we found that there were 16 streets that needed some sort of correction. Common errors, for example, were odd number streets being in the second ward and even being in the third when actually it was quite the opposite. You can kind of see when the Registrars input this data how that kind of mistake could occur. What I find particularly interesting is the fact that in all these elections that I've been a deputy registrar for 15 years, I can't recall anybody ever coming to our office saying, "gosh, you know I think I'm in the wrong ward." We also found a handful of streets that were wholly in the wrong ward much like Granite Terrace. Those will be fixed.

The cause, I think, is basically Registrar error. It's a kind of convoluted system that goes back decades. Then the State introduced the CVRS, the system which is our online database. When we had 104th and 105th sections that divided up our Wards that made it even more difficult to maintain an accurate list. So we think that the actual difficulty was basically Registrars' errors. I don't know if they were tired or distracted or whatever the case may be. But it goes back decades. We recognize that there's a problem here that needs to be fixed. Nancy had the good fortune to call the Secretary of the State's Office because with one or two streets we knew we could fix it, and they indeed advised us that with 16 errors it might be wise for us to call in your consult and ask for your approval to make these changes. You have the information that Nancy has provided for you. You can see we're not talking about an awful lot of changes for voters anyway. We think that the corrections could be made in about a week. It's a painstaking process. It took us over a month to look at this and look at it three different times to make sure the information we're providing to you was indeed accurate. We used both the GIS map and the Council of Governments map and we used two different databases. So the maps don't exactly match, streets sometimes appear on one map and don't appear on the other, and it just took a lot of time to do this. We think we've got this nailed and what we're asking is your approval to make these necessary changes so we have accurate lists for the coming fall election, and that you're looking to properly campaign and candidates can have accurate lists as well.

Ms. Valentine stated, we are awaiting your approval. It's a multi-step process. For example, I printed out the street list, we started with this, and we worked it three times already. But where we discovered the errors, I need to go in there. Today I printed for my own reference so we don't miss anybody, I went into the system and printed out everybody who needs to be notified of the election because once I go in the system, and that is the first step, correcting the street, ward, the odds, evens, or all, then I lose these people, so I didn't want to lose track of who the people are who need to be notified and I can check them off with a red pen as they get a letter. We are going to print these out in duplicate. When Granite Terrace letters went out I printed that out in duplicate, I'm ready for the set of labels. People will stick the nice notice on their refrigerator and by election they're going to forget and we're going to get called. You don't want the people to be distressed; they're going to get another one maybe the week just before election to remind Granite Terrace - these people will get another card telling them the change in their polling place. Hopefully they will go to the right place and not become distressed.

The street has to be corrected first in the Converse system, then I can go in and look up people individually, print out their letters with correction, highlight where their polling place is going to be, doing it in duplicate with one ASAP and one just before the election, so everybody is on the same page.

The new Ward lists will be ready in at least a week.

President Sharkey stated, I see some major changes between the 1st Ward and 2nd Ward.

Ms. Valentine stated, while we're doing this we're going to take and go through the alphabetical streets. Adams Street will show in our system that it's in the 7th Ward; then it also says what our Congressional district is and then State and Federal. Well because we are all one State and Federal, sometimes you can open a street and have a whole page of changes that have occurred over the years from the change of Congressional district from the 5th to the 3rd. There is no need of anybody having to be confused by any of that. Our State, Federal and Districts are now going to basically be the same, we have to make sure we have the odd, even, alls when there are streets subjected to those, different house numbers in different Wards. We are going to go through and correct the 294 streets in question before this is over. We will get to it quickly. We will do that for this election, ASAP. This affects the Aldermen's votes by the number of people. We get an election within that half a percent it could be a recall if anybody knows about this, it could be "uh oh, why wasn't I elected because my right people didn't vote for me."

President Sharkey stated, I personally think we need to correct this as soon as possible.

Alderman Fainer stated, I like the idea of the second notice being sent out.

Ms. Valentine stated, it's a major job, a can of worms we uncovered but it needs to be corrected.

President Sharkey stated, it's very important. There are a lot of changes between the 1st and 2nd; there are a lot of changes between the 6th and 7th. It looks like those are the wards that are affected the most.

Alderman Radin MOVED to accept the report of the Registrars of Voters and adopt the changes, and direct them to make all of the corrections noted therein; SECONDED by Alderman Madigosky. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

Adjournment

Alderman Madigosky MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen