

May 11, 2020

To: Josh Arneson, Town Manager

Selectboard members: David Sander, Bard Hill, Roger Brown, Kathie Maher, Cristine Werneke

From: Linda Parent, Town Clerk / Election Presiding Officer

There are still a lot of unknowns at this point as the Secretary of State is still working with the Governor on the directive.

- They continue to work with the Governor's office to reach agreement on a plan for the August and November elections that will protect the health and safety of election officials and voters while preserving Vermonters' right to vote. They have been clear that a decision needs to be made as soon as possible so that we have adequate time to implement any new procedures in a thoughtful and effective way. It is hopeful that a decision will be made this week, but we cannot guarantee that at this time.
- If the decision is made to mail a ballot to every voter for the General Election, that will only include "active" voters. It will not be required that a ballot be sent to "challenged" voters. Instead, the SOS intends to send a postcard to all challenged voters which will give them an opportunity to affirm their residence and request a ballot.
- SOS office is currently working on a mailing center to take care of the mailing of the General Election ballots.
- SOS office will be providing new mailing envelopes for use for the General Election in November.
- It looks like as of today 5/11/2020 the town office will be mailing the Primary ballots for the August Primary. Every person on the active voter list will be mailed a ballot by USPS. I am not sure of the price, as it is determined how much each ballot weighs (2 mailing envelopes, 1 signature envelope, 1 unvoted ballots envelope and 3 ballots)
- The election would still be open on August 11, 2020 at Camels Hump Middle School. (Mark Carbone, CHMS Principal has approved that we can use the school as of now.) People who might want to return their ballots on 8/11 can come to CHMS. It would be a lot easier for the election workers if the ballots were returned prior to Aug 11. As of this writing, the Town Clerk's office will close at noon on Aug 10 to process the ballots received.

- There would still be same day voter registration and voting, as they will need to come to CHMS.
- The election will be held in the hallway at CHMS, as the gym floor is being varnished and sealed at that time. Thoughts have been given to how to set up, as of now, we will only be placing long tables along the wall, with moveable voting booths, placed on the tables, measuring for social distancing. Pens will be handed to each voter for use in marking their ballots. An election worker may be stationed to wipe down the voting area after each use. They will be turned in at the checkout where they will be returned to the front desk for disinfecting. Election workers will have to be spaced out to receive the “unvoted” primary ballots and oversee the tabulator. The voter will be required to leave by the door opposite the entry.
- I believe that it may be more difficult to find election workers for the election, as some of the usual folks may not want to be with the public. That will be up to them. They can wear a mask and I will have gloves and sanitizer available.
- We may know more after the Governor’s Monday May 18 press conference.

*Selectboard elections/desktop/05 11 2020*