

**Agenda Summary
December 11, 2024**

Agenda Item No. A-5

Appointment of Republican Representation to the Town Board of Civil Authority

Summary: Enclosed is a written request from the Stowe Republican Committee, which requests that the Selectboard two additional Republicans to the Board of Civil Authority in order to satisfy the requirements of 17 V.S.A. § 2143, which states that the Board of Civil Authority must contain at least three members of each major political party.

The Board of Civil Authority is comprised of the Selectboard, Justices of the Peace, and the Town Clerk for a total of 18 members. The Board of Civil Authority is charged with the conduct of elections, hearing and deciding tax assessment appeals, and serving as members of the Board of Abatement.

The Selectboard and Town Clerk are non-partisan positions, and representation of parties is derived from elections of Justices of the Peace. In the November 5 elections, only one Republican Justice of the Peace candidate was elected. Therefore, the Selectboard would appoint two more Republicans to the Board of Civil Authority to satisfy the requirements of 17 V.S.A. § 2143, to serve until January 2027 when Justices of the Peace elected in November 2026 are seated.

17 V.S.A. § 2143

(a) If the board of civil authority of any political subdivision does not contain at least three members of each major political party and the party committee or at least three voters request increased representation for an underrepresented major political party by filing a written request with the clerk of the political subdivision, the legislative body shall appoint from a list of names submitted to it by the underrepresented party a sufficient number of voters to the board of civil authority to bring the underrepresented major party's membership on the board to three. A person's name shall not be submitted unless he or she consents to serve if appointed.

(b) The persons so appointed shall have the same duties and authority with respect to elections as have other members of the board, but those persons shall have no authority with respect to functions of the board of civil authority that are not related to elections.

On November 20, The Stowe Republican Town Committee filed a list of two names with the Town Clerk to request appointment to the Board of Civil Authority – Lynn LaFleur and Susan Connerty.

Town Plan Impact: N/A

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Recommendation: Move to appoint Lynn LaFleur and Susan Connerty to the Board of Civil Authority, for a two-year term effective February 1, 2025 and ending on January 31, 2027.

Town Clerk, Penny Davis
Address: Akeley Bldg
Stowe, VT

Date: 11/19/24

Re: Appointment of Republican Representation to the Town Board of Civil Authority

Dear Penny,

As the Chairperson of the Republican Town Committee OR other Town Citizen as indicated below, I am writing to submit the name(s) of willing town citizen(s) to be appointed to the Town Board of Civil Authority (BCA). The appointment(s) seek to fulfill the minimum Republican Representation of three persons that is allowed by Vermont Statute 17 V.S.A. § 2143 as shown below. We do recognize that any person(s) appointed to the Town BCA under this statute, will perform BCA Election Duties only and not the other functions of the Town Board of Civil Authority.

Received & Filed on 11/20/2024

Stowe Town Clerk's Office
Stowe, Vermont

The name(s) I am submitting are as follows:

Lynn LaFleur
Susan Connerty

Please record this letter in town records and pass on my request to the Town Selectboard, so they will formalize the appointment(s) at their next public meeting. Please contact me once the process is complete. Feel free to contact me if necessary. My email is listed below.

Thank you,

Republican Town Comm. Chair., OR Other Town Citizen: Susan Connerty

Email Contact: connerty@psnift.com Phone Contact: 802-253-2140

17 V.S.A. § 2143.

Political Representation on Board of Civil Authority

- (a) If the Board of Civil Authority of any political subdivision does not contain at least three members of each major political party and the party committee or at least three voters request increased representation for an underrepresented major political party by filing a written request with the clerk of the political subdivision, the legislative body shall appoint from a list of names submitted to it by the underrepresented party a sufficient number of voters to the Board of Civil Authority to bring the underrepresented major party's membership on the board to three. A person's name shall not be submitted unless he or she consents to serve if appointed.
- (b) The persons so appointed shall have the same duties and authority with respect to elections as have other members of the board, but those persons shall have no authority with respect to functions of the Board of Civil Authority which are not related to elections.