

Electronic Voting Study Committee Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2019

In Attendance: Bryan Moss, Sandy Wright, John Covey, Pat Convery, Beth Casavant, Neena Mohanka, Chris Mehne

Meeting called to order at 7:07 by Chair, Bryan Moss

Approval of meeting minutes from January 23, 2019 meeting

Donna O'Connor motion to approve; 2nd by Pat Convery; unanimously approved.

Discussion of Vendor Demonstrations

Cost based on 5 nights of Town Meeting- all are ballpark prices and not official quotes.

PCI \$4,000 per meeting (\$20,000 per year)

Voatz \$10,000 per year subscription type service- can have a reasonable number of nights with 5 being the minimum

Option Technologies (OTI)- range \$11,000-\$18,000 per year (average \$15,000 per year)

Town Meeting Experience

PCI- more corporate events

Voatz- new, pilot testing, one or two articles in a meeting, but have worked with other type elections

OTI- has town meeting experience and a streamlined process for check in

There are pros and cons to leasing and owning with what the companies provide. There is also work created for our IT Department and Town Clerk. EV speeds up roll call votes and provides greater transparency- the drawback is the cost.

Devices

PCI- looks like a phone with LCD screen. Just tells you that the vote is received

Voatz- use your own phone or tablet. Tablets provided for people not wanting to use their own device or those without devices.

OTI- Device provided shows yes or no when person votes

Showing Results in Real Time

PCI- able to show percentage of passing/not passing would likely be in the app

OTI- Results can be displayed either by results or percentage. They can show a slide for each precinct and have additional screens so everyone in the room can see.

John Covey if the warrant could be structured in a way that all of the “easy” articles are together, all of the votes that we would want the use of the EV devices can be together, etc.

Some of the EV devices won't operate if there is not a quorum. Also may need to revisit Cushing Rules, as they were clearly written before EV.

Technology side/Process side- look at the process and then how can it be augmented or improved with the technology?

Post meeting results

OTI- Provides a formatted report in pdf form

Voatz- Can host our data on their server or we can host it ourselves on our server

PCI- provides spreadsheets

Impact on Town Departments

Need more information on what the expectations would be for our town departments. There will definitely be changes in the Town Clerk's office. No matter what company, there would be prep work to get the articles to the company prior to the start of the meeting.

Money, staff time, meeting time- will amended articles electronically

Tutorials

Each company has brief tutorials in the form of short videos and practice votes. Vendors assume that people are facile with devices and that it will only take a few minutes for people to catch on to EV.

Ease of Modification During EV

All vendors had powerpoints and could move and change things quickly by creating a slide.

Advance Notice of Meeting Dates

Flexible- a couple of weeks at most.

Pilot Available

Voatz- \$2500

OTI potentially free if we have intentions of moving forward

PCI unknown, but there would be a cost as the reps would be coming from Florida

Discussion of Surveys and Report

Pat Convery drafted survey questions. Some are for Town Meeting Members some are for all citizens wishing to take the survey. The questions are designed to see what people value, if people see EV as relevant and beneficial.

There is discussion that a survey is beyond the scope of this committee. Beth Casavant suggested that in light of time, the report is generated and presented to the Selectmen. A report will be presented to Town Meeting Members in May by Bryan Moss, the Chair of the Committee. The Committee will vote on whether or not we would recommend EV for the Town Meeting.

The Committee discussed the cost in light of what is needed in the rest of the budget. \$10,000 is a significant amount of money to spend on 5 nights a year when most departments need to reduce their budgets. There is definitely benefit to having EV, and perhaps our perspective might be different in years to come, but right now, given the budget, does not seem like the right time to make the investment.

Tangible payback, return on investment- being able to show that the investment will save money down the road. EV provides no tangible payback. It would be interesting to know what the citizens thought through a survey, and that will be part of the recommendation in the report.

Voting to recommend that the Town Adopt EV for Town Meeting at this time:

Pat Convery- no
Donna O'Connor- no
Sandy Wright-no
Bryan Moss-yes
Neena Mohanka-no
John Covey-no
Beth Casavant- no

Bryan Moss will draft our report prior to the next meeting on Thursday, March 7th.

Motion to adjourn made by Donna O'Connor, 2nd by Neena Mohanka, unanimously approved.

Minutes submitted by Beth Casavant

