



Patrick J. Ward, Town Clerk

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Massachusetts

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MODERATOR'S AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ELECTRONIC VOTING

**JANUARY 24, 2012
MINUTES**

The meeting of the Moderator's Ad Hoc Committee on Electronic Voting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Roberts-Dubbs Auditorium at Brookline High School. Present were Chairman Robert Stein, Moderator Edward (Sandy) Gadsby, Joel Shoner, Stanley Spiegel, IT Director Kevin Stokes, and Neil Wishinsky. Also present was BHS Audio/Visual Coordinator Mark Vanderzee.

The meeting opened with a conference call with Mark Fite of Option Technologies. Along with Mark's comments was a Power Point presentation.

Bob opened the call by explaining that the Committee was looking for somewhere over 250 handhelds to be used by Town Meeting Members. The issues involved being cost of purchase (or perhaps lease) and how the votes are saved (database, delimited file). The reasons for looking into this was to save time at Town Meeting, to get an accurate count and to have recorded votes.

Mark explained that Option Technologies was working with a number of towns; Chelmsford and Framingham with representative town meetings being the most similar to Brookline.

Option Technologies can provide the handhelds for purchase (Chelmsford) or rental (Framingham) or some combination. They also can provide training installation, software upgrades as desired by the purchaser.

There is immediate tabulation with the data stored in a SQL database. The data can then be exported to a delimited file or to Excel.

During the voting period the vote can be changed; only the last vote is tabulated.

The display projected on a screen is flexible:

- sort by precinct, last name, etc.,
- votes can be displayed immediately or grayed out until the voting has completed,
- totals can be also be shown in real time or delayed until voting has been completed,
- flexibility as to the number of columns displayed, font size, etc.,
- timing of the display if multiple screens is adjustable,
- can display a countdown timer,
- can display a PASS/FAIL indicator based on a user defined formula.

The cost for 275 G3 handheld system would be in the range of \$20-\$25,000.

The cost for 250 G2 handheld system would be about half that of the G3. (\$12-\$15,000)

Differences between the G2 and G3:

- G3 has more robust security.
- G3 echoes back to the keypad, the G2 does not.
- G3 has an LCD display and an audit function.

Option Technologies has the handhelds in stock and they can be delivered in 2 to 5 business days.

Total installation time is usually less than a month.

This ended the call with Mark Fite of Option Technologies.

There followed some discussion of how the electronic voting might proceed.

Possible procedure:

- voting period would last about 30 seconds.
- first the Yeas would have 15 seconds to stand and vote by pressing the 1 on the keypad
- then the Nays would have 15 seconds to stand and vote by pressing the 2 on the keypad
- Abstainers would press the 3 on the keypad
- no other keys would be functional
- screen display would be immediate with totals
- screen displays would cycle every four or five seconds.

A display with a countdown timer was set up on a laptop so Committee Members would get a sense of the timing of the voting period and displays. Consensus seemed to be that 30 seconds was more than sufficient time to vote.

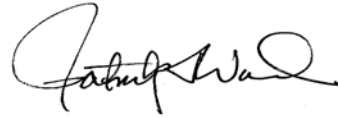
The sense of the committee seemed to be in favor of implementing electronic voting. A question was raised as to how TMMs might respond to the use of electronic voting. Would some TMMs want even 'trivial' votes recorded? The sense of the Committee seemed to be to use the electronic voting only for 'substantial' votes or votes where the count might be in question; perhaps for four or five votes in a typical Town Meeting.

Kevin will try to contact another vendor to talk to for the sake of comparison as well as with a couple of A/V companies.

The next meeting of the Committee will be Monday evening January 31st, time and location to be determined.

The meeting was ADJOURNED at 8:20 pm.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick J. Ward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Patrick J. Ward
Secretary