CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM VI

From: Katie Gargano, City Clerk/ Tax Collector

Subjects: Franklin City Council to discuss alternative polling locations for Wards I & II.

Recommending motion:

1. Councilor moves: (no motion recommended at this time discussion only)

Background:

Ward I may have some accessibility issues that could cause the polling location to be moved because the building is privately owned and updating the building will not add any equity for the City.

Ward II accessibility has become a challenge for some voters due to the lift in the stairway only capable of holding up to 450 pounds. This weight restriction has created some issues for those with motorized chairs almost weighing 450lbs alone (without factoring in the persons weight). The City Manager is reviewing options for a possible upgrade of the chair lift at city hall. Upgrading the chair lift at city hall will still restrict at least one voter (we are aware of) from accessing the polling location due to the combined weight of him and his motorized chair. Moving the polling location is also an option.

Alternative Polling Locations:

Ward I-

1. Paul Smith School, 41 Daniel Webster Drive

- There is a back entrance to the gym is accessible and it is separated from the children, however the gym also serves as the cafeteria which wouldn't work on Election Day because it's a school day.

2. The Armory, 300 South Main Street?

3. other suggestions?

Ward II-

1. The Proulx Center, 124 Memorial Street

- Voting would take place in the gymnasium there is a handicap ramp leading into the gym, the restrooms are on the same level. There is sufficient parking.

2. The Bessie Rowell Community Center, 12 Rowell Drive (Not Recommended)

- Would disrupt the afterschool programs, there is only one entrance for voters, parents and children to get in and out, the Tripp Center is moving in soon, this is a very busy building with limited parking and it is too close to the Ward III polling location and would cause a lot of confusion for voters.

3. Franklin Library, 310 Central Street

- Rear entrance is easily accessible from municipal parking lot, Elevator leads to the second floor where this is a large room that could be used to voting. Would have to get permission from the Library Board of Trustees for use of the room.

4. Franklin City Hall, 316 Central Street

- City Hall does meet the minimum ADA requirement but it's not accessible for all voters.

Attachments/ Exhibits:

- NH RSA658:9a Accessibility
- Procedure for Changing Polling Location

TITLE LXIII
ELECTIONS

CHAPTER 658
PRE-ELECTION PROCEDURE

Preparation of Polling Place

Section 658:9-a

658:9-a Accessibility. – Every polling place in which state elections are held shall be easily accessible to all persons, including persons with disabilities and elderly persons who are otherwise qualified to vote in the choice of any officer or officers to be elected or upon any question submitted at such election. In order for a polling place to be considered accessible to elderly persons and to persons with physical disabilities, the following conditions shall be met; provided, however, that the provisions of paragraph I may be adopted by each municipality on an optional basis:

I. Where parking is provided for the polling place, there shall be at least one van-accessible parking space that is in compliance with the New Hampshire building code, RSA 155-A, and with standards implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 28 C.F.R. part 36 and designated with the international symbol of accessibility. The van-accessible parking space shall be at least 8 feet wide with an adjacent and parallel access aisle that is at least 8 feet wide and located on a level surface as close as possible to the accessible entrance. There shall be a clear path of travel without curbs or steps to the accessible entrance of the polling place from the van-accessible parking.

II. The paths of travel to and from the polling place shall comply with the accessible route requirements of the New Hampshire building code, RSA 155-A, and with standards implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 28 C.F.R. part 36.

III. If there is a curb in a path of travel to the accessible entrance to the polling place, there shall be a curb ramp that complies with the New Hampshire building code, RSA 155-A, and with standards implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 28 C.F.R. part 36.

IV. Where a ramp is provided, the ramp shall comply with the New Hampshire building code, RSA 155-A, and with standards implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 28 C.F.R. part 36.

V. Entrances, doors, and doorways shall comply with the New Hampshire building code, RSA 155-A, with standards implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 28 C.F.R. part 36, and with the following requirements:

(a) There shall be at least one primary entrance to the polling place accessible to elderly persons and persons with disabilities and clearly marked with the international symbol of accessibility.

(b) If there are entrances that are not accessible, they shall have signs posted directing voters to the accessible entrance.

VI. The path of travel in the interior of the polling place shall comply with the accessible route requirements of the New Hampshire building code, RSA 155-A, and with standards implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 28 C.F.R. part 36.

Source. 1987, 210:2. 2007, 312:2, eff. Sept. 1, 2008.

Procedure for Changing a Polling Location

A new ward location will be selected by the City Council and voted on by City Council

Ward Location can be changed up until 14 days prior to an election

When the warrant is posted at least 14 days prior to the Election it will state the new voting location

City Clerk will notify the state and all registered voters on the checklist in that ward that the location has changed