

Electronic Voting Subcommittee Meeting Minutes for August 14, 2014

#1: The meeting came to order at 7:34 pm

#2: Jon Sieber appointed Secretary pro tem

Attending were: David Bernstein (chair), Jonathan Sieber, Larry Krakauer, Don Schuler, Alan Reiss

DB notified group that David Watkins, having joined FinCom, has resigned from ELVIS.

#3: Public Comment – none

#4: Review and approve previous minutes

Minutes of meeting on 6/19/2014 were approved unanimously with correction of spelling of David Watkins name

#5: Review technical responses to Wayland's Electronic Voting Services RFP and recommend a supplier

DB suggested that our recommendation evaluate each proposal as to whether they pass our criteria and then we make a recommendation if we have one. The overall discussion was:

MERIDIA:

They seem to have responded to the details of a previous RFC not the current one so they did not respond to some of our requirements.

More importantly their proposal does not support the audit process that we require for security reasons.

DSI (PowerCom):

We have questions about their proposal which if they give us satisfactory responses would lead us to ask for a demo that they have offered. If that demo is acceptable we would be able to report that they pass.

The open questions include:

whether requiring an online link for a multiple room meeting requires a lan link or a wan link which would require us to be connected to the internet.

the statement that they use "no energy" except when transmitting.

a discussion of the response time.

their use of check and X instead of 1 or 2 or yes or no to vote and whether that would mix up people who have experience voting the way we currently do.

can they expunge the voting records after each vote (rather than after the end of the evening).

OTI:

Based upon our past experience they are an acceptable solution. We do have an outstanding question about worst case response times that they didn't address in their response.

Motion made:

Meridia disqualified

DSI requires further information to be qualified

OTI qualified but we will request answer to response time question.

Motion approved unanimously.

#6: Discuss possibility of further automating checkin procedure

DB has made attempts to contact state authorities with no results. He will continue after election.

#7: Discuss the possibility of enabling citizens to participate in Town Meeting – including voting – from home (if it were legal)

DS outlined his thoughts on the security issues and what we would need to put together for a proposal for at home voting:

Key areas to be defined to allow for a comprehensive discussion of at home voting:

1. The requirements, rules and procedures to become an at home voter (for the voter and town clerk).
2. The process required of the at-home voter to cast votes.
3. The mechanism of transferring the at home votes to the town meeting.
4. Changes to the electronic voting system and check-in systems that are necessary to support at home voting.
5. Changes to town meeting procedures to support at home voting.
6. Pro/Con issues with allowing at home voting including security and potential for voter fraud.

The security of at home voting (i.e. the potential to inhibit and/or detect voter fraud/proxy voting) need not be required to be greater than the current security of absentee ballots. If it can be made more secure without materially increasing the difficulty of at home voting that will be a plus, but only being equal should not be the **one and only** reason to rule out at home voting.

We will discuss this topic at a future meeting.

#8: Discuss other means by which technology could improve Town Meeting

DB reiterated that moderator has tasked ELVIS with investigating any use of technology to improve TM.

DS brought up discussion of making the meeting go faster by having an active poll to see how many people are ready for the question to be called. This information would be available to the moderator to inform his running of the meeting.

DB brought up the possibility of better planned warrant articles to add clarity to meeting.

There was a brief discussion that we should think about what else could be done before the actual meeting to make it more effective.

#9: Public Comment – None

#10: Adjourn at 9:17