SPECIAL BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY
February 27, 2021
Draft Minutes

Present:	Caroline Brown	Martha Heath
	Allison Hope	Carol Howrigan
	Julia Andrews	Nanette Rogers
	Becky Roy	Andrea Letorney
	Lynn Bursell	

Guests: None

The Board of Civil Authority (BCA) met on Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 10:06 a.m. via Zoom. All attendees attended remotely.

Carol Howrigan nominated Allison Hope as Chair, seconded by Julia Andrews. Motion passed: 9-0.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the opening of the polls for the EWSD Annual Meeting being held on April 13, 2021. Due to COVID-19, the School Board is concerned with voters entering the schools to vote when student drop off is occurring. They are mailing ballots to all active registered voters, which should reduce the number of voters who will vote in person. The Elections Division at the Secretary of State's Office was asked if the polls had to open at the same time in each town of the school district. The response was no. It was noted that Westford voters do not have the same convenience that Essex voters do, such as being able to leave work to vote during lunch. Historically, voters in Westford vote before or after work. Not opening the polls until 10am may disenfranchise some voters. It was also noted that one year the polls for the State Primary Election did not open until 10am. Several voters complained to the town office and BCA members even though the change in time was widely distributed.

While some members of the BCA understood the School Board's concerns, they felt the polling hours in Westford should remain as they usually are.

Becky Roy made a motion for the polls in Westford open at 7am and close at 7pm on April 13 for the EWSD vote, seconded by Carol Howrigan. Motion passed: 7 yes, 1 no.

ADJOURN
The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Hope, Chair
Board of Civil Authority

Nanette Rogers
Town Clerk