

CITY OF CRANSTON
BOARD OF CANVASSERS
Special Meeting of February 8, 2024 – OFFICIAL MINUTES

The Cranston Board of Canvassers met on February 8, 2024, in a meeting advertised in accordance with the Rhode Island Open Meetings Act on February 6, 2024. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Kirk McDonough, at 5:35 p.m. It was held in Council Chambers, Third Floor, at Cranston City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Donahue, Quilcia Moronta, Kirk McDonough

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Nicholas Lima (Registrar / Director of Elections), Maria Madonna (Data Entry and Maintenance Specialist), Jacob Gansert (RI BOE Staff), Nick Edwards (RI SOS Elections Information Coordinator), Robert Ryan (Acting Cranston Fire Chief), Richard Mancini (Asst. Cranston Fire Chief), Richard Greene (Cranston Fire EMS Director), Michael Pezzullo (Cranston Police Lieutenant), Gerald Carnevale (Cranston Police Captain), Elaine Scungio (Cranston Information Technology Manager)

The chair declared a quorum present.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER (NO VOTES TAKEN)
- II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS – 1-17-2024 AND 1-23-2024 (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
- IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - A. THE BOARD MAY VOTE TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.I. GEN. LAWS § 42-46-5 (A)(3) TO DISCUSS AND/OR VOTE ON A MATTER RELATED TO SECURITY (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
 1. ELECTION SECURITY TABLE-TOP EXERCISE TESTING THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
 - B. THE BOARD MAY VOTE TO CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND THE CHAIRPERSON MAY REPORT ON ANY VOTES TAKEN (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
 - C. THE BOARD MAY VOTE TO SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. THE BOARD MAY REVIEW AND COMPLETE CERTIFICATIONS FOR NOMINATION PAPERS THAT HAVE BEEN VALIDATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.I. GEN. LAWS §§ 17-12.1-7 AND 17-14-11 (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
- VI. ADJOURNMENT (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

Mr. McDonough asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

MOTION: By Ms. Moronta and seconded by Mr. McDonough to approve the agenda as posted.

PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 2-0 – Mr. McDonough and Ms. Moronta voting aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS – 1-17-2024 AND 1-23-2024 (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

Mr. Lima said each of these minutes will appear on a future agenda for approval as he hasn't had time to draft them given the numerous election and administrative tasks the office is working on presently.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. THE BOARD MAY VOTE TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.I. GEN. LAWS § 42-46-5 (A)(3) TO DISCUSS AND/OR VOTE ON A MATTER RELATED TO SECURITY (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

1. ELECTION SECURITY TABLE-TOP EXERCISE TESTING THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

Mr. McDonough said the Board will be convening into Executive Session to discuss the sensitive nature of the Board's security and continuity of operations plan.

MOTION: By Ms. Moronta and seconded by Mr. McDonough to enter executive session in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5 (a)(3) to conduct the election security table-top exercise testing the Board's Continuity of Operations Plan.

PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 2-0 – Mr. McDonough and Ms. Moronta voting aye.

The Board entered Executive Session at 5:37 p.m. with the invited participants of the table-top exercise present.

Mr. Donahue arrived after the start of the Executive Session and was marked present at that time.

B. THE BOARD MAY VOTE TO CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND THE CHAIRPERSON MAY REPORT ON ANY VOTES TAKEN (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

The Board exited from Executive Session at 6:54 p.m.

MOTION: By Mr. Donahue and seconded by Ms. Moronta to adjourn from Executive Session.

PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 3-0 – Mr. McDonough, Mr. Donahue, and Ms. Moronta voting aye.

C. THE BOARD MAY VOTE TO SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

Mr. McDonough asked for a motion to seal the Executive Session minutes.

MOTION: By Mr. Donahue and seconded by Ms. Moronta to seal the minutes of the Executive Session.

PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 3-0 – Mr. McDonough, Mr. Donahue, and Ms. Moronta voting aye.

Mr. McDonough reported that there were no votes taken by the Board during Executive Session.

Ms. Moronta had to depart the meeting at 6:56 p.m. due to a personal engagement.

The Chair called for a recess at 6:56 p.m. to allow guests to depart, and he thanked them all for their participation and attendance in the Board's first security Table-Top Exercise.

The meeting resumed at 6:58 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

A. THE BOARD MAY REVIEW AND COMPLETE CERTIFICATIONS FOR NOMINATION PAPERS THAT HAVE BEEN VALIDATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.I. GEN. LAWS §§ 17-12.1-7 AND 17-14-11 (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

Mr. Lima presented all of the validated delegate nomination papers to the Board for their review and signature. The Board members affixed their signatures to each paper and verified the numbers validated by the office staff.

MOTION: By Mr. Donahue and seconded by Mr. McDonough to certify all nomination papers that are before the Board this evening.

PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 2-0 – Mr. McDonough and Mr. Donahue voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

MOTION: By Mr. Donahue and seconded by Mr. McDonough to adjourn.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY – VOICE VOTE

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicholas J. Lima
Registrar / Director of Elections
Cranston Board of Canvassers

APPROVED by the Cranston Board of Canvassers: March 12, 2024