



DATE: May 12, 2022
TO: Village Board of Trustees
FROM: Village Clerk Sandee Policello
RE: Election Administration

Currently, the Village has one reporting unit for elections, which requires that one numbering sequence be used for all voters. As such, the poll books must be in the same room to allow for sequential numbering. This has worked well for the two spring elections, however, I am concerned about future higher turnout elections. Having the ability to direct voters to both community rooms at Village Hall will reduce wait times and hopefully congestion. In order to do this, we will need to return to using two reporting units, so that each room can use their own voter numbering sequence. Wards 1-4 will create one reporting unit and wards 5-8 will create the other reporting unit. Voters will need to know their ward number. Greeters would be placed at the entrance to look this information up and direct voters to the appropriate room.

Another change that would improve the election administration process is to implement central count for the processing of absentee ballots. What this would do is create a separate poll book that would include just the voters that were issued absentee ballots. Again, a separate numbering sequence would be used for absentee voters and the processing could take place in separate area of Village Hall, allowing the entire lower level to be used for in person voting.

For discussion purposes, I would like to give you information regarding the electronic voter system that the Wisconsin Elections Commission developed several years ago. "Badger Book" is electronic poll book software that is specific to Wisconsin election practices and statutes. It is used to check in voters, process absentee ballots and register voters on Election Day. Badger Books are not connected to the internet, however, they do connect to each other to update the electronic poll list as voter numbers are assigned and voters register throughout Election Day. They do not tabulate votes or have anything to do with ballots, they only act as a poll book to issue voter numbers.

One advantage of electronic poll books is that voters will not need to know their ward number and can be serviced at any station regardless of where their last name falls in the alphabet. There is no charge for the software, however, the hardware needed must be purchased. Based on population, six units would need to be purchased at a cost of \$12,611.

In the near future, I will be reaching out to area clerks that have used electronic poll books to get their feedback to help determine if this would be worthy of investigating further.