

SOUTHINGTON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE: March 31, 2014

Town Hall Council Chambers

Elaine Bedard called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm

Sandra Brunoli swore in the new members of the Southington Democratic Town Committee

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

31 members were present, a quorum was reached

Elaine Bedard thanked her supporters and members of the Town Committee for all of their work and support. She stated that the committee was the backbone of the party. She thanked the committee for allowing her to be chairperson. At that point she opened up nominations for Chairman:

Bob Berkmoes nominated Edward Rosenblatt for Chairman of the Party. Bob talked about the Red Sox and Boston. They are a great town and a great organization. Because of commitment to the team and community they are committed, dedicated, and have a purpose. Bob compared Ed to the manager of the Red Sox. He can lead and listen, that is what we need. The nomination was seconded by Margaret Nivelos.

Dennis Conroy made a motion that the secretary cast one ballot for the election of Ed Rosenblatt as Chairman.

Ed thanked the committee for their support. He stated that he hoped within the next few weeks his feet would grow a couple sizes because he had very big shoes to fill. He stated that Elaine and Bob have done an amazing job and thank them both for their leadership over the last many years. Ed stated he could sum up his thoughts and three words:

1: Unite. Now is the time more than ever where we as a party of the people need to unite. We welcome diversity, thought and descent. I don't ask you to forget about things that may have happened or may have made you mad. I ask you put these issues in second place. First place is to improve government in our town.

2: Include. We are the party of every Democrat in town and we have a large town committee and a large group of Democrats in our town. In the next month or so I will call a meeting for us so we can voice our opinion on direction forward then set up a committee to look into where we need to go to move us forward.

3: Challenge. We need to replace Republicans with Democrats. We need to challenge them. They have not led but have misled. We need to utilize things like newspapers, Facebook, Twitter, personal conversations to get our points out there.

Ed then opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman:

Dave Zoni nominated Rebecca Davis. Dave stated that Rebecca served our party for many years and is an excellent candidate for the position. Rudy Cabata seconded the nomination.

Dennis Conroy made a motion that the secretary cast one ballot for the election of Rebecca Davis for Vice Chairman. Seconded by Zeke Zalaski.

Rebecca thanked the committee and stated that she will do everything she can to support the chair and the entire Democratic Party.

Ed Rosenblatt asked for nominations for Secretary:

Rudy Cabata nominated Zaya Oshana. Rudy stated that Zaya has been involved in the party for many years. He stated that he worked hard in his name is synonymous with the party. Bob Berkmoes seconded the nomination.

Dennis Conroy made a motion that the secretary cast one ballot for the election of Zaya Oshana for Secretary. This was seconded by Dave Zoni.

Zaya thanked the party for their support. He stated that he believes strongly in the Democratic principles that we all stand for and that we must work hard for them. He stated he would do whatever needed to be done to support the chair and the party.

Ed Rosenblatt asked for nominations for Treasurer:

Chief Murphy nominated Dave DellaVecchia for the position of Treasurer. He stated that Dave had done the position and knows what needs to be done. This was seconded by Zeke Zalaski.

Dennis Conroy made a motion that the secretary cast one ballot for the election of David Della Vecchia for Treasurer. This was seconded by Jerry Belanger.

David thanked the committee for their support and trust.

Ed opened the floor for Special Guests and introduced Dorian Lockert from Joe Aresimowicz campaign.

Dorian stated we have to fight hard this year for Joe and Dave Zoni. He stated he just met Kristen Sellek tonight and is excited to work with her. There is more outside money coming to our state elections this year. He reminded us that our state reps draw the congressional lines and we have seen in other states where Republicans draw the lines to disenfranchise Democrats and Democratic voters. We need your time and if possible your money. He also stated that Congressman Larson would like to hold a fundraiser here in Southington. Additionally he stated that party leaders are not comfortable in coming to Southington.

Zaya Oshana asked why would state leaders not be comfortable in coming to Southington, what are their concerns?

Dorian stated that it was a lack of money coming from Southington to the campaigns.

Kristen Sellek introduced herself as a candidate for the 103rd congressional district. She stated she was very excited and was tired of hearing NO. No to teachers, No to education, No to infrastructure, No to schools. She stated that she was hoping for our support so we can ACT not just Interfere. Kristen is working to get qualified for public financing and needs 150 signatures to get qualified. If she gets qualified by early May she can show her opponent and the community that she is a serious candidate. She stated she needs our support. She stated she is a very proud social worker, working on domestic violence issues. It is about keeping our community safe. Children's issues are very important to her. She thanked the committee for having her today.

Zeke asked if she brought forms for us to sign today and she said yes. He also asked how many doors will you not gone to which she replied every door where there are Democrats and independents that are voters have voted in the past.

A motion was made and passed to dispense with the reading of the secretaries and treasurers report for this meeting.

Old Business:

There was none

New Business:

Nomination of delegates:

The slate of delegates for the following conventions were read:

- 2014 State Convention – Nominated by Jim Sinclair
- Judge of Probate – Nominated by Bob Galati
- House 30th District – Nominated by Tom Janik
- House 80th District – Nominated by Susan Locks
- House 103rd District – Nominated by Susan Locks
- State Senate 16th District – Nominated by Dennis Conroy
- 1st Congressional District – Nominated by Tom Janik

A second for all slates was given by Bob Berkmoes

Dennis Conroy made a motion that the secretary cast one ballot for the aforementioned slates and this was seconded by Margaret Nivelos.

Ed stated that if a person cannot make their noted convention please let him know.

Dennis Conroy made a motion to authorize the chair to fill any openings with proxies. This was seconded by Jim Sinclair.

Tom Janik brought news from the registrar's office. Since the end of January there is progress with online registration. New registrations, people from other towns, change of name and address. They

need to have a motor vehicle ID. You can go to Southington.org and go to the elections tab click on the link and it will bring you to the Secretary of State's office to register.

John Moise stated he wanted to hear from Dave Zoni.

Dave stated he will knock on 5501 doors! He understands that Al Natali is running against him. The 81st district all in Southington so I need to get all my 150 signatures from Southington. A contribution is helpful but signatures are more important. Dave stated that Al filed early before getting endorsed by his party.

Dorian asked what would be one or two of your major accomplishments:

Dave stated that one was working with Joe A. to secure funding for the calendar house. Dave also stated that we passed the minimum wage bill to help those less fortunate move up the economic ladder. Both the President and the Governor were in favor of this.

Jerry Belanger asked for his stance on reverse pilot.

Dave stated that he served on the Moore commission to help municipalities. I served in the tax area on which we can get money to towns and rely less on property taxes. Reverse pilot needs more discussion as the devil is in the detail. I am worried that some municipalities can abuse this. Reverse pilot means every hospital, school, prison gets dollars from PILOT – payment in lieu of taxes. Reverse pilot will allow the town to charge full tax and negotiate down to 32%. There was discussion on the pros and cons and who is and is not going to be covered.

Dennis Conroy discussed the governor's proposal to give \$55 rebates to citizens. Dennis said to tell the governor to keep it and apply it to an income tax reduction.

Christine Shanley-Buck stated that the amount will cost to make these payments is huge and it becomes not cost effective to do this.

Bob Galati stated that the governor proposed taxing a lower amount on teachers pensions, where does this stand. Dave stated that the government did in fact do this and stated that he served on the finance committee but it has not yet gotten to them.

Motion To Adjourn by Jerry Belanger
Seconded by Angelina Santa Maria

Respectfully Submitted by
Zaya G. Oshana