

We are certainly at the point that towns begin to look at reprecincting. Due to space constraints and the considerable added cost, I suggest that the Selectmen consider a vote to remain a single precinct town. This is with the hope that vote-by-mail alleviates some of the capacity issues for voting in person.

Choosing to remain a single precinct town does not mean that our election day processes can reasonably remain the same, however. While I am not ready to speak to it at this moment, I strongly believe that the Town should consider shifting to the use of poll pads versus a paper process. Poll pads would help to ease wait time to vote on election day, aid in tallying, and improve accuracy. They may even allow us to decrease or completely eliminate poll workers at the check-out table, allowing for additional staffing to help with the processing of mail-in ballots. I have attached some initial information on poll pads – we would need to purchase three of them and there would be an annual maintenance cost associated with them as with ballot boxes. I did speak to Frederick Brose about this a little bit. A lot of towns have already shifted to the use of poll pads and reviews from other Town Clerks are extremely positive. The client list provided in the proposal is a few months old and I know that other towns have since used CARES and grant money for the purchase of poll pads. I think that we should put an article on next year's Annual Town Meeting Warrant requesting funds to shift to poll pads. I will follow up with you when the Warrant opens in 2022. The poll pads would be extremely helpful whether we remain one precinct or two.

Also, as the Town puts together the new Master Plan, we need to begin to consider where our second precinct will be located – even if we decide to wait 10 years as I hope. The gymnasium at BES would be ideal as it has a separate entrance direct to the parking lot, but due to limited parking I don't see how we could use it. Using the gymnasium at Tahanto might also create parking issues and there is no direct outside door so it would also be disruptive to students. Something to keep in the back of everyone's minds.

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