



BOARD OF ELECTIONS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 11:00 A.M.

Willowbank Office Building
420 Holmes Street, Room 146
Bellefonte, PA 16823

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Centre County Board of Elections was convened at 11:05 AM by Chair of the Board of Elections Steven Dershem.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

In attendance were Commissioner Chair Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray, Director of Elections Joyce McKinley, Elections Coordinator Jodi Nedd and Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith.

County personnel present included Nick Barger, Chad Joyce and Nate Smitchko, RBA.

Guests present included Cindy Hahn and Stephanie Yager of CNET.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Pipe invited Cindy Hahn, Executive Director and Stephanie Yager, Operations Manager of CNET to attend the meeting to discuss communication of election changes to the public. Significant changes include the new mail in voting, extended registration window, and elimination of the straight party voting option. Commissioner Pipe would like the Board to develop a script for CNET to prepare a public service announcement that can be shared during their programming, on social media, and the radio. Margaret suggested that the public service announcement include a reminder for voters to check and verify that their address is up to date.

Stephanie explained that the public service announcement would be similar to a power point with information displayed on the screen and will require minimal production for the Board. The information screens will be intermixed with video of people performing the actions (completing a ballot, mailing the envelope, etc.). Jodi will provide demo ballots that could be used for production. Because the public service announcement will cover many points, Cindy suggested dividing it into shorter clips. Commissioner Pipe agreed that separate shorter clips would receive more views on social media.

Commissioner Pipe then inquired about the website centrecountyvotes.com and if it is still active. It was his recommendation to repurchase the URL. Jodi explained that the URL was previously purchased and used when the County website was not mobile friendly. The County website now directs voters to votespa.com, the Department of State site, which has the most accurate and up to date information.

IV. REPORTING

In regards to Election night reporting, Joyce said Elections System & Software (ES&S) is working with Nate, Chad, and Nick to improve the process. Nate explained that the only delay is in generating precinct level reports. With Act 77, Jodi added that the absentee and mail in count may take days to complete. Commissioner Dershem stressed that the County will need to remind citizens that the reports on Election Night are not accurate and may not include absentee or mail in votes.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Pipe, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Natalie Smith
Executive Office Supervisor