



BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES

Tuesday, April 21, 2020, 1:00 P.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 1:10 PM by Chair of the Board of Elections, Commissioner Steven Dershem.

In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray, Director of Elections Joyce McKinley, Voter Registration Latisha Stefanko and Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Mailing ballots for the General Primary

Joyce McKinley asked the Board if return envelopes should include pre-paid postage. Commissioner Pipe asked if all registered democrat and republican voters are sent an application and does the county pay for return postage. After discussion, it was decided that the County would not pay for return postage on applications or return postage on ballots. The Department of State has sent a postcard mailer asking voters apply for a mail in or absentee ballot online. The Republican Party also sent a mailer including a mail in application.

Latisha Stefanko asked if the Board would like a drop box installed in front of the Willowbank Building as an alternative to mailing return ballots. The Board was in favor of a secure drop box, so Latisha will check with the United States Postal Service to see if they have a mail box available. The Facilities Management office will be able to install the box in a secure area with video surveillance.

With nearly 89,000 democrat and republican voters, the Board agreed not to send a mailer at this point. They discussed sending a post card with information to apply for an absentee or mail in ballot. Latisha reported over 7,500 processed applications. It was suggested that if possible the mailing list be filtered to remove those who have already applied. Commissioner Pipe asked that Joyce and Latisha check with the Department of State to see if that can be done and if they would also be able to send the mailer and then bill the County for the expense?

Commissioner Dershem asked for an update on poll workers who have committed to working at the poles for the Primary Election. Joyce reported that four election

boards have backed out and Jodi is contacting each of the precincts to confirm their availability. The Board agreed that it is important to have an accurate count of those who have committed to work and which locations will be available. Commissioner Pipe asked if the county is permitted mandate that a facility be open for an election. He requested that Joyce contact the Department of State for their guidance. Joyce also suggested contacting the County Solicitor for her advice.

The Board discussed additional safety equipment and precautions that should be implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of State is procuring safety equipment for distribution to each County, Joyce can provide more specific details in the coming weeks. The Elections office has already purchased Clorox wipes to use on door knobs, table tops, etc. and hand sanitizer for each precinct. Instead of distributing "I Voted" stickers, the Board discussed purchasing pens for each voter. Joyce will also look into purchasing tape to mark spacing for social distancing in the poll lines and signage to remind voters to maintain 6 feet of distance between one another.

It was the consensus of the Board to meet once a week for updates as the County prepares for the June Primary. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 28 at 11 AM.

IV. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, May 18, 2020

Last day to REGISTER before the primary.

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot.

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

GENERAL PRIMARY

Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots. Must be received by 8PM.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Pipe, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Natalie Smith
Executive Office Supervisor