



## BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES

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

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

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Centre County Board of Elections was convened at 11:15 AM 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 Joyce McKinley, Elections Coordinator Jodi Nedd, and Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Polling Places

Jodi Nedd provided an updated list of precincts that have confirmed their availability for the June 2 Primary Election. The rural areas of the county have been more willing to say yes, the Centre Region is more complicated and most are waiting for further COVID-19 guidance from the Governor. As of this morning there are 37 confirmed locations and 16 that have said no. Recent direction from the Department of State would allow counties to consolidate 60% of their precincts. Commissioner Pipe suggested that the Board try to have a minimum of one precinct per municipality. If there is a need to consolidate precincts, Joyce asked the Board to provide guidance on how to notify voters? Commissioner Pipe said they are not required to mail out voter cards and Commissioner Dershem added that each precinct will be posted with notice of any change. Commissioner Pipe asked Joyce to have the County Solicitor review the Election Code to see if the county can mandate that locations be open. He also suggested contacting the State College Borough, which Jodi has done. She has to return a call from them earlier this morning.

#### B. Poll Workers

It was recommended by Commissioner Pipe that the Board first confirm availability with each precincts and then begin to allocate poll workers to determine the number that need recruited. Without the students from Bellefonte High School, Jodi estimated that there will need to be at least 100 additional individuals. Commissioner Dershem suggested that the county could contact civic organizations such as the Kiwanis, Rotary, etc. Commissioner Higgins said that each precinct will need a judge, majority and minority inspector. When contacting individuals, Commissioner Pipe said

they can be assured that safety protocols are in place and social distancing will be practiced at the polls. Jodi will take the lead on confirming precincts and poll workers. The Board will work on recruiting additional poll workers.

The Board discussed increasing the pay for poll workers in the Primary Election. Joyce reported the regular base pay is around \$120. If funding is received from the State for COVID expenses, Commissioner Pipe suggested increasing the pay for both workers and precincts. Commissioner Dershem said to set a flat rate and Joyce agreed however, the rate should be tiered for judges and clerks. It was also the consensus of the Board to look into a contract to disinfect precincts following the election.

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 Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Natalie Smith  
Executive Office Supervisor