



BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES

Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 1:30 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 1:35 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, Elections Coordinator Jodi Nedd, and Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Board of Elections Meeting held on Tuesday, May 19 and Tuesday, June 2.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Campaign Finance Reports – Request by Commissioner Candidate Pat Romano for reduction of fines. Commissioner Pipe stated that he would not be willing to negotiate the reduction of fines for Mr. Romano. He feels that the Board has been extraordinarily lenient with this matter and he was given plenty of notice and time to remit payment. Commissioner Dershem agreed and suggested that the Board provide correspondence to let Mr. Romano where they stand on this matter. The Board was in agreement with Commissioner Pipe noting that while the Board appreciates his request, the fine is \$1,500 and if not paid by a specified date, the matter will be turned over to the Magisterial District Judge. On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to send Pat Romano correspondence indicating the requirement that he satisfy the obligation within 30 days.

B. Disposal of Election Equipment

Director of Elections Joyce McKinley reported that the old voting system is in storage in Philipsburg. The new system has now been in place for three elections. Vendor Election Systems and Software (ES&S) is willing to come and get the old system at no charge. They will also complete the necessary paperwork for the Department of State in relation to HAVA funding. Commissioner Dershem feels it is

very wasteful to do this, however the system has been decertified and there is no other avenue of disposal. Commissioner Pipe requested that Joyce ask ES&S to provide a contract for record of disposal. This will only be for the electronic components and not the stands.

V. ACTION ITEMS

On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to approve items A-E.

- A. Certification of Computation of June 2, 2020 Election – Official Return Board
- B. Certification of Unofficial Returns to DOS for June 2, 2020. The unofficial record of votes cast was sent to the DOS June 9, 2020.
- C. 2020 Primary Election Ballot Certification
- D. Approval to shred the Secrecy/Inner Envelopes used by voters to vote-by-mail in the June 2, 2020 Primary Election. It was the consensus of the Board to only keep the outer envelope with the voter affirmation. Commissioner Pipe noted that the inner envelopes were triple checked by election workers to confirm that they were empty.
- E. Approval to shred all ballots, envelopes, etc. from the May 15, 2018 Primary Election.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. The Board of Elections received notice of an election complaint submitted online to the Department of State by Amanda Rickard.

The complaint stated, "I worked a 12 shift as an RN today. I pulled into the voting place at 755. As I was walking in a lady walked out and said "we are closed." I looked at my watch and she said "we close at 8pm" I said "its 757" she shrugged and said "yeah everything is already packed up sorry". Since their polling place was packed by 757 this means they started closing their polling place long before 8pm. This is the second year this has happened and deprived me of the opportunity to vote."

Director of Elections Joyce McKinley will contact those running the precinct. She is not aware of any other instances or complaints received. Commissioner Pipe requested that Joyce pull the reporting tapes to see what time the machine was closed down. If they were closed early then the Board may need to have a rover at the poll to make sure the precinct is not closing early.

- B. Commissioner Pipe asked for an update of the vote by mail room and larger location for the General Election. For the proposed locations, Commissioner Dershem asked that the Board consider space, food accommodations, and security. The election staff are currently looking into use of the Penn Stater in State College.

VII. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, August 3, 2020

Last day to circulate and file nomination papers.

Monday, August 10, 2020

Last day to withdrawal by candidates nominated by nomination papers.

Last day for withdrawal by candidates nominated at the primary.

Monday, October 19, 2020

Last day to REGISTER before the November election.

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Natalie Smith
Executive Office Supervisor