

ELECTION BOARD

April 11, 2022

Present at the meeting were:

Brian Allen
Gary Eby
Brenda Watson
Bill Bunt
Bonnie Delancey
Shannon Hines

Present from the Public via Phone/In Person: Rich Fultz, John Schulze, and Wes Smith

The Election Board met on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was conducted via WebEx video/telephone conference and in person in the Commissioners' Meeting Room. The meeting was recorded by the County.

Public Comments: John Schulze stated that he was recording the meeting. He commented that he was seeking clarification on Election Day operations. He said that violations were seen during Election Day last year to include candidates within 10' of the polling place entrance, candidates within the polling place multiple times, and a candidate's spouse being in the polling place after the doors were locked and while ballots were being compiled prior to the posting of results. Mr. Schulze stated that a complaint was filed with the Department of State and the County regarding these violations. He said that the County responded that they could not do anything about the issues since they did not receive the complaint at the time it occurred, but when the County was contacted on Election Day about the issues there could not get ahold of anyone. Mr. Schulze said he was looking for answers on the following:

- What process should the public follow when they see a violation?
- Was any training provided about the Election Law to the municipal judges?
- What are the repercussions, because an election official just shrugged off the issue which doesn't lead to trust of our elections, election officials, or elected persons?
- Why do we still not have the final election results from the 2021 election posted to the County website?

Mr. Schulze stated that the violations occurred in Rye Township.

Approval of the Minutes: Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Election Day Procedures: Bonnie Delancey, Election Director, stated that a ballot drop box will be placed in the Commissioners' Office lobby each day during regular business hours. She asked if the Board would like someone to watch the box each day, but further discussion resulted in not having a volunteer at the drop box. She said that her staff will be in early on Election Day and the Election Board will also be present that day. Ms. Delancey stated that she is awaiting state certification on the ballot before moving forward with printing. She commented that the internal staff should be able to handle the mail in ballots during the upcoming Primary Election. She stated that training materials were sent out that day to all the Judge of Elections and they were instructed to disseminate the information to the polling location staff. Ms. Delancey said she plans to hold a training prior to the General Election in November.

Discussion occurred regarding Mr. Schulze's questions. He was instructed to call the Election Office regarding issues at the polling location, and if he cannot get through to call the Commissioners' Office. Mr. Schulze explained the layout of the Rye Township polling location and how township staff were in the polling location and restroom.

The Board set a schedule for upcoming Election Board meetings. Meetings will be held on the following dates/times:

- May 2 at 11:00 AM
- May 9 at 11:00 AM
- May 16 at 11:00 AM
- May 17 – continuous session beginning at 8:00 AM
- May 20 at 9:00 AM until ballot tabulation is complete

Bonnie Delancey stated that election results are posted on the website. Mr. Schulze stated that the results on the website do not show write-in results. He requested that a listing of elected officials be posted on the website, along with write-in information. Ms. Delancey stated that after final count, a listing of elected officials is sent to each municipality and school district. Mr. Schulze said it would be nice if voters could see this information on the County website.

Commissioner Allen stated that he intends to resign from the Election Board due to being on the ballot. He said he will be providing a letter to Ms. Delancey.

Public Comments: None

Commissioner Allen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.