

ELECTION BOARD

April 17, 2023

Present at the meeting were:

Larry Reisinger
Shannon Hines
David Lanza
Bill Bunt
Sarah Geesaman

Present from the Public via Phone/In Person: Barb Hench, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, and Marty Smith

The Election Board met on Monday, April 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was conducted virtually via WebEx video/telephone conference and in person in the Commissioners' Conference Room. The meeting was recorded by the County.

Public Comments: Commissioner Reisinger thanked Director, Sarah Geesaman, for the Judge of Election training she conducted recently. He said he had received positive feedback.

Approval of the Minutes: Shannon Hines made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 3, 2023 meeting. David Lanza seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Sarah Geesaman, Director of Election/Voter Registration stated that the ballot drafts had been approved by the Department of State and L&A testing was complete. She commented that Kirk and Barbara Hench were watchers during the L&A testing process.

She said that the Department of State recently provided sample values for use in the SURE system for coding ballots that for example came back undated etc. Ms. Geesaman said having guidance on coding helps all counties be consistent within the SURE system.

She further commented that the county liaison for the upcoming election had been assigned and noted that it was the same person as the last election. She said liaison is the contact person for her office if there are any questions or concerns during the election process. Ms. Geesaman stated that the liaison will provide updates on things such as mock elections and provided information on the upcoming mock elections.

She also said that the deadline to register to vote or change your party is May 1st. She commented that the deadline to start sending out ballots is May 2nd.

Ms. Geesaman stated that last week she had sent the number of ballots needed for the upcoming election to the printer and commented that ballots should be delivered soon.

She commented that the number of mail-in and absentee ballots received on election day must be posted on the County website and Chief Clerk Hines took care of this previously.

Ms. Geesaman said she had forwarded to the Election Board two updated directives that were recently sent out by the Department of State. She asked if the Election Board had any questions.

The Board discussed the directives and how the election day process occurs regarding the guidance on absentee and mail-in ballots.

She said that to date 88 absentee ballot applications and 1,500 mail-in ballot applications had been received. She further commented that the deadline to get a mail-in or absentee ballot application is May 9th.

Ms. Geesaman said the proclamation is ready to be posted online and published in all three County newspapers the week of May 8th.

Solicitor Bunt asked if the Board wanted to discuss the drop box policy. Commissioner Reisinger said that he thinks there does not need to be two drop boxes and only one box should be in the Freedom Building where the Voter Registration/Election Office is located. Due to security issues coming into play it was recommended that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss further.

David Lanza made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:24 a.m. Shannon Hines seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

The Election Board reconvened at 11:39 a.m.

David Lanza made a motion to eliminate the two ballot drop boxes for the fall election and leave the drop box situation as is for the upcoming primary election. Solicitor Bunt stated that Mr. Lanza was only appointed to the Election Board for the primary election and questioned his authority to make changes to the fall election. David Lanza amended his motion and made a motion to eliminate the ballot drop box in the Veterans Memorial Building and have only one ballot drop box in the Freedom Building for the upcoming primary election, and further recommended that all drop boxes be eliminated for the fall election. The motion died for a lack of second.

Commissioner Reisinger made a motion that for the May 16, 2023 election there be only one ballot drop box, located in the Freedom Building and no drop box in the Veterans Memorial Building. Shannon Hines seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

David Lanza made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:44 a.m. Shannon Hines seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.