

ELECTION BOARD
October 24, 2022

Present at the meeting were: Brenda Watson
Gary Eby
Brian Allen via telephone
Bill Bunt
Shannon Hines

Present from the Public via Phone/In Person: Mary Ann Brownawell, Bonnie Delancey, Sarah Geesaman, Patricia Gutheil, Michael Pomante, and Deb Shrawder, and Wes Smith

The Election Board met on Monday, October 24, 2022 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: None

Approval of the Minutes: Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Bonnie Delancey, Election/Voter Registration Director, stated that 2,357 mail-in ballots, 431 absentee ballots, and 6 military ballots had been mailed out to date. She commented on the number of ballots and asked whether additional assistance on election day would be needed. The Board discussed this issue and concluded that the work could be accomplished using in house employees.

Ms. Delancey commented that she had been unable to reach Donald McClure regarding the Republican observers on election night. Patricia Gutheil said she would alert Mr. McClure of the need to contact the Election/Voter Registration Office. Ms. Delancey stated that Curt Hench and Dana Cotton would be the Democratic observers on election night.

Ms. Delancey stated that the election proclamation would be in the County newspapers on November 3rd.

Sarah Geesaman, Election/Voter Registration Clerk, commented that she had confirmed that the SURE system does generate emails to voters when ballots are mailed and received if an email is entered into the system. She also said that the new office space is working out well and glass was recently added to the front door.

Ms. Geesaman said that the Election Office would have extended hours on the following dates:

- October 25, 2022: 8:00 am to 6:30 pm
- November 1, 2022: 8:00 am to 6:30 pm
- November 8, 2022: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 pm

Ms. Geesaman also recommended that a second ballot drop box be placed in the Commissioners' Office to assist voters when the Election/Voter Registration Office is closed temporarily to attend a meeting. The Board discussed this recommendation

Commissioner Eby made a motion to add a second locked drop box in the Commissioners' Office. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor Bunt stated that due to the County receiving Act 88 Election Grant funds, it is the Department of State's position that final count must be performed on the Veterans Day holiday. His recommendation to the Board, so as not to possibly affect the funding, is to conduct final count on November 11th. The Board agreed to hold final count on November 11, 2022 beginning at 9 a.m.

Solicitor Bunt reminded the Board that Perry County has taken the position that we do not contact voters to make corrections to mail-in/absentee ballots. He said that to date the Commonwealth Court said they will not grant the injunction to enjoin counties. He also said that the issue went to the Supreme Court but it was evenly decided which meant that there is no decision on the issue at that level. Solicitor Bunt stated that these court proceedings should not affect how the County handles ballots and he recommended that the County continue to not cure ballots.

Solicitor Bunt reminded the Board and Election staff that ballots should continue to be segregated correctly in the event of a recount. Commissioner Watson stated that containers marked with each type of segregated ballot be created and the ballots be deposited in them as they come in.

Commissioner Allen questioned if a resolution had been reached regarding the address field issue on the online ballot application. The Board discussed the fact that the online application issue was at the Department of State level, but the Election/Voter Registration staff can help assist voters as they can.

Deb Shrawder commented that the Eastern Voter Conference was scheduled for December 1 and 2 in Hershey. She questioned how many staff from the office should be attending the conference. Commissioner Eby said one or two individuals should be attending and Commissioner Watson said to register two individuals for the conference and additional registrations could be completed at a later date.

Public Comments: None

Commissioner Eby made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:33 a.m. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.