

**ELECTION BOARD**  
**August 14, 2023**

**Present at the meeting were:**

Larry Reisinger  
Shannon Hines  
David Lanza  
Bill Bunt  
Sarah Geesaman

**Present from the Public via Phone/In Person:** Ben Cramer, Dr. Pat Gutheil, Don McClure, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, Amy Rabin, and Deb Shrawder

The Election Board met on Monday, August 14, 2023 at 8:00 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:** Solicitor Bunt stated that Attorney Cramer had sent a letter regarding potential litigation and said he would like to discuss in Executive Session. David Lanza said he did not think that an Executive Session was necessary.

Commissioner Reisinger said it was Perry County Fair week and said he looked forward to seeing everyone at the fair.

Ben Cramer said he was available to discuss the letter he sent and said the letter indicated that he would petition for the Election Board to make a decision.

**Approval of the Minutes:** David Lanza made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 22, 2023 meeting with the addition of verbiage to the minutes indicating that he did not know the identity of the candidate's representative involved in the polling location issue. Shannon Hines seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

The Board went into Executive Session and then reconvened.

**Meeting Business:** Sarah Geesaman, Voter Registration/Election Director, explained that there was an error on the Perry County primary ballot for Susquenita School District Region III. She said the ballot indicated that there were two 4-year terms on the ballot, but it should have been one 4-year term vacancy and one 2-year term vacancy. Ms. Geesaman said the information provided by the school district was incorrect. She further said this position was also on the ballot in Dauphin County but was listed correctly. Commissioner Reisinger read a memo from the Election Office that was sent to the affected individuals, that based on vote count the following individuals would appear on the November ballot:

4-Year Term: Patricia Gutheil (Republican)  
                  Tina Kelly (Democrat)

2-Year Term: Robert Carmo (Republican)

Solicitor Bunt stated that Mr. Cramer's letter stated that the Election Office did not have the authority to make that decision and recommended that the Board handle the issue in two parts. He said first decide how the 4-year vacancy would be handled and then decided on the 2-year vacancy.

David Lanza made a motion that Patrica Gutheil and Tina Kelly appear on the November ballot for the 4-year term in Susquenita School District Region III. Shannon Hines seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the 2-year term vacancy and the nomination process for the vacancy.

David Lanza made a motion that the County political parties inform the Voter Registration Office on or before September 19, 2023 of their respective nominees for Susquenita School District Director Region III 2-year term and said the names will be provided by the party chairs and the names provided will appear on the November ballot. Mr. Lanza amended his motion to include that the Voter Registration Office will notify the candidates that received the original memo of this decision. Shanno Hines seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor Bunt explained that there are judges up for retention statewide. He said there was discussion on how the retention questions should appear on the ballot and based on the information the Election Director received, the counties in the Commonwealth do it different ways. He read Article 5 Section 15 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania which states that the it should be on a separate judicial ballot or in a separate column on voting machines. He said some counties put the retention question on the back of the ballot and some put it at the bottom of the ballot.

Don McClure stated that there was only one retention judge.

Shannon Hines stated that it does not make sense to have a separate ballot for only one or two retention questions as it may be confusing to voters and the additional cost to print another ballot page. Sarah Geesaman said that in previous elections Perry County put the question on the back of the ballot and feedback from other counties indicated that a second page is often forgotten by poll workers, or thrown out by voters. Commissioner Reisinger explained a sample ballot.

Shannon Hines made a motion that the retention questions be printed on 1 ballot and the questions be on the back of the ballot, or if spacing limitations exist, immediately following the other offices on the ballot.

Solicitor Bunt commented that he had previously stopped Mr. Lanza from addressing the ballot boxes for the November election, because he was only appointed to the primary Election Board. He further stated that now he was on the Election Board for the upcoming November election he may want to revisit this item. David Lanza said that based on the discussions from the spring election has security issues and nothing is more important than election integrity. He said he has used the drop box and is familiar with how it works, but it would be best for security purposes if the drop box was removed from the Voter Registration Office.

David Lanza made a motion to remove the ballot drop box from the Voter Registration Office. The motion died for a lack of second.

Shannon Hines made a motion to retain the ballot drop box in the Voter Registration Office. Larry Reisinger seconded the motion. David Lanza opposed. Motion carried.

Sarah Geesaman stated that National Poll Worker Recruitment Day is August 23<sup>rd</sup>. She had received promotional information from the Commonwealth regarding the day and asked if recruitment information could be published on the County website for outreach.

Shannon Hines made a motion to put poll worker recruitment information on the County website. David Lanza seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines said the next Election Board meeting was scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. The Board will establish a schedule of future meetings at the September meeting.

**Public Comments:** Faith Pundock asked what the correct mailing address for mail in ballots was.

Don McClure said he may be mistaken on his previous comment on retention judges as there may be a second. He further stated if there are poll workers misbehaving, he would like to know immediately as he has no tolerance for this type behavior.

Shannon Hines made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 a.m. David Lanza seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.