

## **ELECTION BOARD**

**October 9, 2023**

**Present at the meeting were:**

Larry Reisinger  
Shannon Hines  
David Lanza  
Bill Bunt  
Sarah Geesaman

**Present from the Public via Phone/In Person:** Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, Bob Ressler, Marty Smith, and Wes Smith

The Election Board met on Monday, October 9, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. with a Pledge to the Flag. 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:** David Lanza made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2023 meeting. Shannon Hines seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Meeting Business:** Sarah Geesaman, Voter Registration/Election Director, stated that poll training would take place next week for poll workers. She said multiple trainings are scheduled each day and there has been a good response back from the precincts. She said only one precinct has not signed up for the training. Commissioner Reisinger commented that he had received favorable comments after the spring poll training.

Ms. Geesaman said that she had reached out to all Perry County schools about the student poll worker program opportunity and there was no interest in the program. She commented that she will try again during another election cycle.

Ms. Geesaman alerted the Board that she would like to send out a press release to the Perry County Times and PennLive alerting that ballots have been mailed out and upcoming election deadline dates. She said the dates would include the following:

- October 23, 2023 – Last day to register to vote for the November 7, 2023 election
- October 31, 2023 – Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot for the November 7, 2023 election
- November 7, 2023 – Election day

Ms. Geesaman stated that mail-in ballots began being mailed out on October 4<sup>th</sup> and will continue through election day. She further said that approximately 1,200 ballots have been mailed out. She commented that two part time employees helped her office to get ballots out.

Solicitor Bunt stated that the Election Board should have received some updated Election Directives and it is important that each board member's directive booklet be kept up to date. He said that based on one of the new directives the statistic sample procedure can be completed differently using different scanning equipment. He said the State is now recommending a

statistical sample be done of every person on the ballot. He commented that further discussion on this topic will need to take place in the future.

Solicitor Bunt said he and Ms. Geesaman had a conversation with the Chief Constable of Venango County. He commented that a planning meeting would be taking place later in the week regarding constables at the polling locations. He stated that the President Judge will neither approve or disapprove constables at the precincts.

Solicitor Bunt commented that new software was purchased by the County regarding write-ins. He recommended that if the software is set up and ready, it be used to calculate write-ins during the upcoming election instead of waiting until the presidential election. Sarah Geesaman said she, Dean Lusby, and Brett Turner from Clear Ballot would be meeting to go over the new software.

Solicitor Bunt said that official count normally falls on the Friday following election day and noted that for the upcoming election, it will fall on a holiday. He commented that previously the State had required that official county happen on the Friday following election day due to grant funding. He said Ms. Geesaman is looking into whether this is a requirement of the upcoming election. Ms. Geesaman said that she had spoken to other counties and the consensus is that based on the Act 88 grant there is no adverse action to the County's grant funding if they choose to conduct official count on a different date. She stated that she is awaiting a response from the Department of State liaison regarding this issue and will alert the Board of the response.

Sarah Geesaman stated that she had forwarded an email from Megan Sellers to the Board regarding questions she has on the election equipment. The Election Board discussed the questions. Shannon Hines made a motion to have Sarah Geesaman respond to the questions from Megan Sellers. David Lanza seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Ms. Geesaman said that there was a guidance issued by the Department of State on voter privacy at the polling location and Solicitor Bunt recommended providing this to the poll workers. She commented that she will be including this guidance in the poll kits that go out for election day.

Solicitor Bunt said he had recently attended a training seminar and election issues were a main topic during the training.

**Public Comments:** Faith Pundock asked if there was no longer a need to hire part time employees to help in the Election Office. She questioned if Ms. Geesaman will be reaching back out to the schools for student poll workers and if that will be enough time for the upcoming election. She further asked if the retention question on the ballot issue had been resolved.

David Lanza made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Shannon Hines seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.