

ELECTION BOARD
October 30, 2023

Present at the meeting were:

Larry Reisinger
Shannon Hines
David Lanza
Bill Bunt via WebEx
Sarah Geesaman

Present from the Public via Phone/In Person: Dave Hammar, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, and Wes Smith

The Election Board met on Monday, October 30, 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 October 23, 2023 meeting. David Lanza said he noted there were questions from the public but there were no responses in the minutes. Shannon Hines stated that the minutes reflect actions taken and public comments, not responses. Mr. Lanza said he would like the minutes to reflect the answers to questions and further stated that the minutes should reflect the reason why the Board went into Executive Session prior to the language stating that the Board went into Executive Session. The Board discussed this action. David Lanza amended his motion to include revising the minutes to include adding verbiage regarding the reason why the Board went into Executive Session. Shannon Hines seconded the amended motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Sarah Geesaman, provided the following statistics:

- 2,178 mail-in and absentee ballots mailed out
- 1,083 mail-in ballots returned
- 88 absentee ballots returned

Ms. Geesaman stated that October 31st is the last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot for the November 7, 2023 election

Ms. Geesaman stated that the second roving constable training had occurred and thanked Wes Smith for his help with the pilot program. She said there was a good turn out and commented that she will be meeting with the participating constables after the election to get feedback on how the program worked.

Sarah Geesaman said that last week her office had submitted the Voter Registration Statistics Report to the Pennsylvania Department of State. She commented that there are 29,782 registered voters in Perry County.

Ms. Geesaman said the SURE printer went down last week while printing signature books. She stated that after contacting the State liaison and Help Desk for assistance the Deputy Secretary of Elections dropped off a new printer to her office. She commented that all signature books are now printed.

Sarah Geesaman commented that all poll kits are packed and ready for pick up on Monday, November 6th. She said that poll workers can pick up them up from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. that day.

Ms. Geesaman also gave a shout out to Deb Shrawder, Deputy Director of Elections, for her guidance and input.

Sarah Geesaman said moving forward all poll workers will be receiving their own paycheck directly after the election instead of having the Judge of Elections distribute the pay to each poll worker in their precinct.

Ms. Geesaman commented that Act 88 funds were used to purchase sealable return bags, sealable provisional ballot bags, and orange cones with “Vote Here” signs to help make polling locations more visible. She said the return bags and the provisional bags will be sealed by the poll workers prior to their return to the County for security and the bags will help make the process more organized for all.

Sarah Geesaman said she will be providing the election day and final count work assignment to the Board soon.

Commissioner Reisinger said the candidate with the residency issue that was discussed last week did not contact the Election Office by the required deadline. Sarah Geesaman said that a letter was drafted and delivered to the District Attorney’s Office. She further stated that a response has not been received from the District Attorney’s Office to date. David Lanza asked what the intended response to the public regarding the issue should be. Solicitor Bunt stated that the response should be that the issue has been forwarded to the District Attorney and it is before the District Attorney.

Commissioner Reisinger thanked Sarah Geesaman and Deb Shrawder for their hard work leading up to the election.

Public Comments: Dave Pundock asked if there is a chain of custody procedure or process for the poll bags. Sarah Geesaman stated that per Election Code, the Judge and Minority Inspector are required to return the poll bags. Mr. Pundock further questioned if there are serial numbers on the bags, and Ms. Geesaman confirmed there are.

Solicitor Bunt thanked Sarah Geesaman and said the purchase of the return and provisional bags was a great idea.

Shannon Hines made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 p.m. David Lanza seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.