

ELECTION BOARD

January 22, 2024

Present at the meeting were:

Brenda Watson
William Lyons
R. Franklin Campbell
Bill Bunt
Sarah Geesaman
Shannon Hines

Present from the Public via WebEx/Phone: None

The Election Board met on Monday, January 22, 2024 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.

Appointment of Election Board Officials: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to appoint Solicitor Bunt as temporary chair for reorganization purposes. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor Bunt requested nominations for Chair of the Perry County Board of Elections. Commissioner Campbell made a motion to nominate Brenda Watson as Chair of the Perry County Election Board. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. Commissioner Campbell made a motion to close the nominations. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. All motions carried.

Solicitor Bunt requested nominations for Vice-Chair of the Perry County Board of Elections. Commissioner Campbell made a motion to nominate Bill Lyons as Vice-Chair of the Perry County Board of Elections. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Commissioner Campbell made a motion to close the nominations. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. All motions carried.

Solicitor Bunt requested nominations for Secretary of the Perry County Board of Elections. Commissioner Lyons made a motion to nominate Frank Campbell as Secretary of the Perry County Board of Elections. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Commissioner Watson made a motion to close the nominations. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. All motions carried.

Solicitor Bunt then turned the meeting over to Commissioner Watson as Chair.

Public Comments: None

Meeting Business: Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Sarah Geesaman, Election Director, provided 2024 Election cycle dates and campaign finance dates to the Board. She stated that the PA Department of State alerted her that new mail

in/absentee ballot envelope materials will be required. She said that current envelope stock is not permitted to be used but she is awaiting guidance on whether the inner secrecy envelopes can be used. Ms. Geesaman said she is also waiting for a cost from the printer for new envelopes as she had not budgeted for this expense.

Ms. Geesaman said she would be checking with the Department of State on current guidance for undated mail-in/absentee ballots.

Ms. Geesaman provided the Board with a template of instructions provided by the Department of State that would be placed inside outgoing ballots. The Board approved the inclusion of instructions in outgoing ballot envelopes.

Ms. Geesaman proposed a second drop box in another County building. She said previously a drop box is placed in the Freedom Building, but recommended that a second box be placed in possibly the Courthouse, as she has had many voters go to the Courthouse to try and drop off ballots. The Board indicated they would need to talk with the Sheriff on this issue.

Sarah Geesaman said that additional part time staff will be needed as the election gets closer. She commented that currently one part time staff member would be helpful to assist with the current work load. She stated that approximately 6 individuals on a part time basis will be needed closer to the election. The Board discussed how to fill the need. Chief Clerk Hines said that she would check with the part time receptionists to see if one of them would be willing to help with the current part time need. The Board further discussed the workload of the office and additional help.

Ms. Geesaman commented that a double voter issue was brought to the Election Office's attention. She said in November 2022 an individual voted in Perry County Pennsylvania, but also in North Carolina. She stated that she had provided all information to aid in the investigation and alerted the Department of State.

Sarah Geesaman said the green provisional bags are working well on election day, but said one additional small bag would be helpful for poll workers to place the thumb drive in when returning it to the Election Office. She commented that the estimated cost for these bags was \$293 and would be an eligible grant expense. The Board approved the purchase of the thumb drive return bags.

Ms. Geesaman stated that she is working on training dates for judges and inspectors. She said she anticipates the training will be held in March.

The Board discussed future Election Board meetings and decided on the below schedule:

- February 12, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.
- February 26, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.
- March 4, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.
- March 18, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.
- April 1, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.
- April 8, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.
- April 15, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.
- April 22, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.
- April 23, 2024 continuous session beginning at 7 a.m.

April 26, 2024 9 a.m. until the completion of ballot tabulation
May 13, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Public Comments: None

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.