

ELECTION BOARD
November 20, 2023

Present at the meeting were:

Larry Reisinger
David Lanza
Bill Bunt
Sarah Geesaman
Gladys Carns

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

The Election Board met on Monday, November 20, 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: Faith Pundock thanked Sarah Geesaman and her team for all they did on Election Day.

Approval of the Minutes: David Lanza made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Sarah Geesaman, Election Director, said that 100% of the ballots are tabulated for Election Day. But if only 37% vote, then 63% of the ballots are shredded. This is a waste of money and we need to encourage more people to come out to vote. Ms. Geesaman is going to reach out to other counties to see they have registered voter drives to see if we can get more voters.

Ms. Geesaman stated that Election Day went smooth with just a couple of problems at the precincts. The scanning wasn't going smoothly and three precincts had to use their emergency bags. Sarah went out to the precincts and showed the poll workers what they needed to do if the ballots didn't scan properly. Sarah said she will be adding this to the poll training.

Ms. Geesaman said that she was happy with the Constables and all they did to be a presence at the precincts. She knows that some did a lot traveling around that day and she appreciated all they did. There were not any problems this election which she feels it was because the Constables were there.

Sarah Geesaman commented that the remarks from the poll workers concerning their precincts was that it was a good day. There were not many issues. Most of calls that were received in Elections office were that a person was there and was not registered. A lot of these people were registered in another county and didn't update their records with Perry County.

Ms. Geesaman stated she planned to meet with some of the Judges at some of the small precincts and some of the larger precincts. She wants to get their input on how the Election office can make things better for them including dropping off their supplies at the end of election night.

Jonette Zeigler, a poll worker from Spring Township stated that the drop off was much easier and more organized than in previous years.

Ms. Geesaman stated that they would need to look at the Madison Township location. They need to find a better location with better lighting. She suggested a church or another community building in the area that would better serve the voters.

Ms. Geesaman stated for the 2024 Presidential election more people will be needed to help with this election. They will need volunteers and other helpers including to help with the incoming mail-in ballots. There were paid helpers in the 2020 presidential election and it is expected to be the same for the 2024 election.

Ms. Geesaman thanked the Maintenance crew of Cory Matter and Bill Wagner for all their help at the end of election night. They kept things organized while moving constantly to take each of the precincts supplies and put them away.

Ms. Geesaman stated that their 20-year-old printer stopped working the day before the election. Ms. Geesaman and Ms. Shrawder hand wrote the labels to keep the process going. The State sent Perry County a new printer and it needs a special plug before it can be installed.

Public Comments: Bill Bunt thanked Sarah Geesaman and Deb Shrawder for all their hard work. Also, he stated that there was a misconception at the recent Commissioners' meeting. Someone objected to the system that is being used for our ballots. This is a State mandated process and the Election Board has absolutely no say in this process. This would take a State Legislature action to make any changes. And Bill Bunt asked if the complaint that was turned over to the District Attorney if there was a response yet. Ms. Geesaman stated that there has not been a response. Bill Bunt and Sarah Geesaman thanked David Lanza and Larry Reisinger for serving on the Election Board.

Faith Pundock questioned what the positions are in the Freedom Building and the Veterans Building on Election night. Ms. Geesaman stated that the person sitting in the hallway of the Veterans Building checks off the precincts as they hand in their paperwork on Election night and update poll workers information. The person in the Freedom Building is making sure everything is physically returned like equipment, etc.

Dave Pundock questioned why sample ballots are not sent out. Ms. Geesaman stated that ballots are on the website for the public to view. The State of Pennsylvania does not allow sample ballots to be sent out.

Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 a.m. David Lanza seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.