

## **ELECTION BOARD**

**May 13, 2024**

**Present at the meeting were:**

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

**Present from the Public:** Jeff Garman, Dave Pundock, Kathy Garman

The Election Board met on Monday, May 13, 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.

**Public Comments:** None

**Meeting Business:** Commissioner Watson announced that an election education forum was being planned to demonstrate the election process used in Perry County. She said once the event is organized, additional information would be provided.

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Sarah Geesaman, Election Director, stated that she will have the final signing for the recent election. She said once signed the final election result upload would be provided to the state.

Director Geesaman noted that the license and warranty on the election equipment would need to be discussed, as they are both expiring. Ms. Geesaman said the pricing is different based on the term of the warranty/licensing contract. Solicitor Bunt recommended that the vendor provide proposals for multiple terms so that the Board can review the different pricing options. Commissioner Watson also questioned the lifespan of the equipment. Director Geesaman said she would look into these items.

Ms. Geesaman said she was made aware of how other counties process write-ins during final count. She stated that Perry County processes write-ins' by first removing invalids and then types in each write-in. She said Franklin County processes their write-ins differently. Ms. Geesaman explained that they separate them into categories: blank, invalid, scattered, and possibility. She further explained the process. She noted that this would save time since only eligible names would be typed. The Board further discussed this procedure.

Sarah Geesaman stated that it was brought to her attention that the print out of the tapes at the polling locations is not required. Ms. Geesaman said the paper to print out the tapes is very expensive and it is time consuming for the poll workers. She suggested that in order to save money and the poll workers time, the tapes no longer be printed out at the polling locations and posted. Commissioner Lyons made a motion that the tapes no longer be printed and posted at the polling locations. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Director Geesaman noted that she and Deb Shrawder have streamlined the election and post-election procedures. She said that previously it has taken about two months to finalize the election. She commented that due to the system they have implemented, they will be done in about three weeks. Ms. Geesaman noted they have stopped redundant processes and organized election materials differently. She further stated that she piloted a different poll kit process with Bloomfield Borough and it went well. She said a more streamlined process will be worked out for election night drop off as well.

Sarah Geesaman reminded the Board that she had previously said that if more than 50 ballots were dropped in the Courthouse drop box, it should be kept for subsequent elections. She said that only about 20 ballots were deposited in the Courthouse drop box during the recent election. Ms. Geesaman requested that the drop box in the Courthouse be removed due to the low usage. Commissioner Campbell made a motion that there be only one ballot drop box, and it be located in the Election Office. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor Bunt congratulated Sarah Geesaman and Deb Shrawder for doing an excellent job on the election process. He noted the improvement they have made, especially regarding education and willingness to examine protocols and take appropriate action if necessary.

Ms. Geesaman provided information on the poll worker training that will be provided for the upcoming November Election. She said that due to the large number of individuals that will need to attend the training and the parking limitations, she recommended that a larger location be rented for the trainings. Commissioner Watson raised a concern regarding having a large number of people in a training and still being able to provide the information effectively. Director Geesaman said she had thought about structuring the training differently due to the possibility of more individuals participating.

Solicitor Bunt asked how the roving constables went during the recent election. Sarah Geesaman stated that it went well. She said that additional constables were pulled to cover the western part of the County and noted that poll workers appreciated the constables' presence on election day.

Commissioner Campbell echoed Solicitor Bunt's comments and thanked Sarah Geesaman and Deb Shrawder for all their work.

Sarah Geesaman thanked the voter helpers.

Commissioner Watson said the voter helpers learned a lot about the election process and it opened their eyes to the work involved with running an election.

Commissioner Lyons thank Sarah Geesaman and Deb Shrawder as well.

**Public Comments:** None

Solicitor Bunt said he found the minutes for the November 20, 2023 post-election meeting minutes and noted that there were no concerns raised by the public or the two members of the Election Board present at the meeting. He stated that the minutes are available for the public to review.

Commissioner Watson said that she was not in attendance at the meeting even though people think she was. She stated that based on the minutes, the public did comment, but no concerns were brought up by anyone, not even the picture taker.

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.