

ELECTION BOARD

March 24, 2025

Present at the meeting were:

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

Present from the Public: Jeff Garman, Brooke Holley, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock

The Election Board met on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 11:02 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 Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Sarah Geesaman, Election Director, introduced new staff member, Brooke Holley, Deputy Director Election.

Sarah Geesaman said that her staff is currently working on proofing the term and position lists for the ballots and once that is complete, she will be looking at the candidates. She commented that 144 petitions were submitted and noted that during the last municipal election there were 109. She said on April 2 and 3 she would be meeting with Wes Smith, from EMA/911, to discuss emergency planning.

Ms. Geesaman stated that poll training for all Judges, to include new Judges and Inspectors, would be held on April 8, 9, 10. She noted that the training would take place in the Freedom Building and there would be three sessions each day.

Sarah Geesaman commented that logic and accuracy testing was tentatively scheduled for April 14 and 15 with Clear Ballot. She said election day is May 20.

Ms. Geesaman stated that the following poll workers are needed:

Judge – Liverpool Borough
Judge – Landisburg Borough
Inspector – New Buffalo Borough

She said that if no one steps up to take the positions, she will look at the poll worker wait lists for neighboring municipalities and reach out to them to see if they would work on election day. Ms. Geesaman said she already called all the wait list individuals in each of the needed municipalities, but the individuals have either moved or are deceased.

Ms. Geesaman said Brooke is learning the SURE batches, daily mail, and helping with the ballot.

Commissioner Campbell asked about the emergency planning and Ms. Geesaman said she wanted to ensure emergency responses on election day here or at a polling location.

Commissioner Watson explained to Ms. Holley that the expectation is that she would assume the role of Director in the absence of Ms. Geesaman and run the Election Office. She encouraged Ms. Holley to continue to learn from Ms. Geesaman and Ms. Shrawder.

The Board discussed a schedule of Election Board meetings leading up to the upcoming election.

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to hold Election Board meetings per the below schedule:

April 7, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

April 21, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

May 5, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

May 12, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

May 19, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

May 20, 2025 beginning at 7:00 a.m. all day

May 23, 2025 beginning at 9:00 a.m. all day

June 9, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

The Election Board discussed virtual participation at their meetings. Commissioner Watson stated that if other public meetings are not available for virtual participation, but are recorded and posted for public viewing, it should be the same for the Election Board meetings. Director Geesaman and Commissioner Campbell agreed. Commissioner Campbell made a motion to end virtual participation effective with the next meeting in April and record and post the meetings. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor Bunt stated that he received an email from the Chair of the Republican Party regarding a position in Greenwood School District involving Christopher Sagle. He said that the Chair says that Mr. Sagle is a Democrat and circulated a petition for school director and provided false information. He stated that the Chair said in the email that you cannot circulate a petition when you cross file unless you are a member of the same party. Solicitor Bunt said there are exceptions to this, but school director is not one of those exceptions. He further stated that Mr. Sagle did circulate a petition as a Democrat, on the Republican side, and that was wrong. He said the Election Office has a duty to do a facial review of the document and that was done. Solicitor Bunt stated there are examples in the regulations of what a facial review is and provided examples. He commented that the Chair of the Republican Party requested that this issue be considered a major defect and to declare it null and void. Solicitor Bunt said that is wrong as there is a deadline to file challenges and the email was sent after the deadline. He further recommended that the Election Board instruct Ms. Geesaman to respond directly to the Chair and let him know that he is correct that the petition was not circulated correctly, but the deadline is past and he can petition the Court of Common Pleas if he wants to take further action.

Public Comment: Faith Pundock asked where she could find the facial review document. Solicitor Bunt provided document information.

Dave Pundock said something was put into the court system regarding the Greenwood school director petition issue, but it was rejected because it went to the wrong office.

Faith Pundock asked if the data Sarah Geesaman has is real time or if Mr. Sagle could have changed parties. Ms. Geesaman said this question was discussed with the Pundocks previously in her office and said she does not know if the data is real time and commented they should contact the Department of State. Faith Pundock asked if there is a deadline to change parties for candidates. Sarah Geesaman and Solicitor Bunt said they were not sure, but Solicitor Bunt stated that Mr. Sagle was wrong regarding the petition circulation issue.

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.