

REGULAR MEETING

-1-

May 20, 2021

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joan Windnagel at 9:05 A.M. Present were Mr. Dennis Pavella, Mrs. Janet Carson, Mr. Ed Ryder and Deputy Director Michelle Lane.

Mr. Pavella made a motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2021 as presented. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Deputy Director Lane reviewed the current bills.

Mr. Pavella made a motion to approve payment of the following bills as presented. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS	\$1,504.00
POV PRINT COMMUNICATIONS	\$717.52
QUILL	\$65.98
SOUTHERN COMPUTER WAREHOUSE	\$39.95
ULINE	\$417.36
YOUNSTOWN LETTER SHOP	\$5,230.00
21ST CENTURY MEDIA	\$175.09
CHARDON OIL CO.	\$69.58
SUNRISE SPRINGS WATER COMPANY	\$38.00
QUILL	\$32.99
KIM RUSHWORTH	\$51.52
TERRANCE M. ZION	\$53.20
JOHN LUCAS	\$105.84
DON MOHNEY	\$12.49
SHI INTERNATIONAL CORP	\$918.80
GOVCONNECTION	\$2,190.00

GOVCONNECTION	\$461.20
PEO Pay Roll	\$15,650

Mr. Pavella made a motion to approve payment of the five Maple Leaf bills. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. Mrs. Carson, Mrs. Windnagel and Mr. Pavella voted: AYE. Mr. Ryder: Abstained.

GEAUGA COUNTY MAPLE LEAF	\$45.00
GEAUGA COUNTY MAPLE LEAF	\$105.00
GEAUGA COUNTY MAPLE LEAF	\$137.60
GEAUGA COUNTY MAPLE LEAF	\$210.70
GEAUGA COUNTY MAPLE LEAF	\$150.50

There were no indeterminate postmarks for the 10 Day Ballots.

Mrs. McGinnis, Absentee Supervisor presented 26 Ten Day Absentee Ballots with legal postmarks. Mr. Pavella moved to accept the 26 Ten Day Absentee Ballots with legal postmarks. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mrs. McGinnis presented 8 Ten Day Absentee Ballots with late postmarks. Mr. Pavella moved to not accept the Ten Day Absentee Ballots with late postmarks as stated in the ORC. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mrs. McGinnis stated that there were no insufficient Absentee Ballots envelopes to review.

Mrs. McGinnis presents 28 Provisional Ballots to the Board for their review.

Ten of the Ballots were sufficient Absentee - Provisional Ballots. Mr. Pavella moved to accept the 10 Absentee-Provisional Ballots. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Seven of the Ballots were sufficient change of addresses within Geauga County. Mr. Pavella moved to accept the 7 change of address Provisional Ballots. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

One of the Ballots was a sufficient Out of County Provisional verified as registered in Portage County. Mr. Pavella moved to accept the 1 Out of County Provisional Ballot. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mrs. McGinnis presented 4 Provisional Ballots cast by voters not registered in the State of Ohio. Mr. Pavella moved to reject the 4 Provisional Ballots where the voter was not registered in the State of Ohio. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mrs. McGinnis then explained the APRI Exemption to the Board Members. Three Provisional Ballots were reviewed that were deleted in 2015 per the supplemental process and therefore qualified for the APRI Exemption. Mr. Pavella moved to accept the 3 APRI Exemption Provisional Ballots. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mrs. McGinnis then presented 2 Provisional Ballots. One Ballot had an expired ID but there was no verification that the Covid extension for Driver Licenses had been reviewed. 1 Ballot had one incorrect social security number than what was in the Voter Registration System. Mr. Pavella moved to accept the 2 Provisional Ballots with ID issues. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mrs. McGinnis then presented 1 Provisional Ballot. The Ballot was cast in the wrong polling location. Mr. Pavella moved to reject the Provisional Ballots cast in the wrong polling location. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Deputy Director Lane gave an update on the ADA Grant. She and Scott have been working on the ordering of an ADA acceptable Ballot Drop Box. There is a remaining amount of \$99.22 on the Grant Extension and she is hoping that the Board will be able to use that amount for installation. The Tablets and accessories were previously ordered.

Deputy Director Lane requested the Board transfer \$11,000.00 from Board of Elections Account 1001-050-02-503 Hospitalization to 1001-050-02-506 Unemployment. The Board has received an unemployment claim. The Unemployment Fund does not have enough to cover the claim. Mr. Pavella made a motion to approve a transfer for the entire amount of the Benefits payable from Hospitalization to Unemployment. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mr. Morgan, Geauga County Administrator joined the meeting to discuss with the Board the new County Administration Building. The Board expressed their concerns regarding voters accessing the Board of Elections during a large election. The Board of Elections space is in the basement and voters will have to line up through the multi department building and go down an elevator or one set of stairs to vote. The lack of storage space and restroom facilities were again relayed to Mr. Morgan. Mr. Ryder suggested we consult with the Prosecutor to see what the Board's options may be as he felt the space allotted the Board of Elections will not meet the Board's or the voters' needs. Mr. Ryder moved to have the County Prosecutor consulted regarding the Board's concerns and options and to advise on the appointing of Special Counsel. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Mrs. Windnagel is to contact Jim Flaiz, Geauga County Prosecutor, to inquire if he can represent the Board.

The Board discussed the placing of the Board of Election's approved Minutes on our Website. Mrs. Carson moved to authorize placement of approved minutes on the Board of Elections Website. Mr. Pavella seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. The Board felt a good start would be going back a year and start with the placement of a year's minutes.

Mrs. Windnagel suggested we review all Polling Location Contracts in the future. Parkman Township Trustees held a Trustee Meeting in the Parkman Township Hall on Election Day. The Trustees had a Fire Issue on the Ballot. Upon investigation it appears that the Trustee Meeting did not influence or effect the voting in any way and was held in a separate room. Mrs. Windnagel suggested we may want to limit all such activity at Polling Locations on Election Day.

Deputy Director Report – Deputy Director Lane felt the May Special Election went well but will be glad when we have the new voting equipment. She informed the Board that the Board of Election's Budget has been submitted to the Geauga County Commissioners. Deputy Director Lane gave attendees their Summer Conference Tickets and Hotel Tax Exemption Forms. She also discussed with the Board the purchase of 4 more cameras for the current Board of Elections location. Two would cover both sides of the new Drop Box. One would be placed in the backroom where Absentee Ballots are processed and the last Camera would be reviewing the front office counter. Mrs. Lane has been discussing the cost of the cameras with Glen Vernick the Maintenance Director. Mr. Vernick felt the price would be between \$3,500.00 and \$4000.00. Mr. Ryder moved to authorize up to \$4,000.00 for the purchase of 4 additional cameras. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mr. Pavella moved to certify the May 4, 2021 Special Election. (results attached) Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mrs. Carson requested the precinct breakdown be posted on our website for the unofficial results and also posted for the Official Certification.

Mr. Daisher presented two Precinct Maps of Bainbridge Township. Geauga County has a precinct (Bainbridge D) with the number of registered voters over the allowed amount. Each map presented by Mr. Daisher had an option to move a partial number of voters to an adjoining precinct. The Board chose to move a section of Precinct D to B. Precinct C has a Central Committee conflict. There will be no Central Committee conflicts with the move from D to B. Precinct D after the configuration will have 1,369 voters and Precinct B will have 1,327 voters.

Mr. Daisher stated the removal of the old voting equipment will be on the 10th or 11th of June. The new voting equipment is scheduled to arrive June 21st. The hardware Training will be July 23rd. The Software Training is scheduled for July 26 through July 30th. The training will last six and a half hours a day. Mr. Ryder suggested all employees receive all training.

Mr. Pavella moved to go into Executive Session per the ORC Section 121.22 (G) (1) at 12:34 p.m. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. The roll call vote was taken by Deputy Director Michelle Lane: Mrs. Windnagel, Yes; Mrs. Carson, Yes; Mr. Ryder, Yes, and Mr. Pavella, Yes.

Mr. Pavella made a motion to leave Executive Session at 2:07 p.m. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. The roll call vote was taken by Deputy Director Michelle Lane. Mrs. Windnagel, Yes; Mrs. Carson, Yes; Mr. Pavella, Yes and Mr. Ryder, Yes.

Mr. Ryder moved to appoint Michelle Lane the Director of the Geauga County Board of Elections with a salary of \$68,000.00 a year, starting May 23, 2021. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mrs. Carson moved to appoint Nora McGinnis Deputy Director of the Geauga County Board of Elections with a salary of \$60,000.00 a year, starting May 23, 2021. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mrs. Carson moved to hire Kimberly D. Schwartz as the Geauga County Board of Election's Absentee Supervisor with a salary of \$41,000.00 a year, starting May 23, 2021. The probationary period will be 120 days with no hold back of salary. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mrs. Carson moved to appoint Mr. Pavella as Board Chairman of the Geauga County Board of Elections, effective May 23rd, 2021. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mr. Pavella moved to have the Board pay the Conference expenses for hotel, meals and mileage for the Director, Deputy Director and Board Members attending the SOS Summer Conference. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mr. Pavella moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Next Meeting - June 17, 2021, 9:00 a.m.