

REGULAR MEETING

April 21, 2022

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dennis Pavella at 9:05 a.m. Present were Joan Windnagel, Janet Carson, Director Michelle Lane, and Deputy Director Nora McGinnis. Board member Ed Ryder joined the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Present were guests Christine Stenzel, James MacNeal, and Brian Ames. Guests attending the meeting via WebEx were Frank Antenucci, Charles Walder, Shelly Lewis, Nancy McArthur, Sharon Gingerich, ShoMore DeNiro, Johathan Broadbent, Dyanne Giammaria, and Ellen Naylor.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to approve the March 25, 2022, and March 30, 2022 Special Meeting Board Minutes as presented. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. AYES, Mr. Pavella, Mrs. Windnagel, Mrs. Carson.

Mrs. McGinnis reviewed the list of bills to approve. Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to pay the following bills as presented. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. AYES, Mr. Pavella, Mrs. Windnagel, Mrs. Carson.

UPS	\$16.98
B. Fink Consulting	\$3,900.00
Graphic Village	\$14,447.00
The News-Herald	\$342.00
Quill	\$65.16
Quill	\$139.12
Geauga County Maple Leaf	\$170.00
NovaVision Inc.	\$762.05
KMI Printing	\$362.74
Blue Technologies	\$121.48
Triad GSI	\$161.58
Triad GSI	\$1,241.00
Gillmore Security	\$134.00
Quadient Inc.	\$389.82
Sunrise Springs	\$18.90
Auburn Township trustees	\$175.00
Ed Ryder	\$635.11
Nora McGinnis	\$26.95
Quill	\$96.99
Quill	\$22.99
Quill	\$64.67
Quadient Inc.	\$329.22

Intab	\$130.52
Quill	\$58.11
Quill	\$97.40
Quill	\$259.98
Youngstown Letter Shop	\$12,310.20
Geauga County Maple Leaf	\$140.80
Geauga County Maple Leaf	\$145.20
Blue Technologies	\$250.22
POV Print Communications	\$1,844.89

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to approve the campaign finance reports as audited by staff. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. AYES, Mr. Pavella, Mrs. Windnagel, Mrs. Carson. It was noted that anyone needing to file a pre-election campaign finance report did file some form of report.

A random selection of precincts was pulled by Mr. Pavella for the 10:00 a.m. public test. The three precincts selected were Munson Township B, Chardon City A, and Hambden Township C.

A motion was made by Mrs. Windnagel to approve the processing of provisional ballots and remake ballots as necessary by the staff. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to move the executive session after the public test is complete. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Director Lane requested a transfer of funds for \$65,000 be made from account 1001-050-00-601 Contract Services to account 1001-050-00-701 Materials and Supplies due to having three elections this year. Director Lane stated the need for more funds in Materials and Supplies in case of three elections was addressed with the County Commissioners during the budget meeting. Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to transfer the funds from Contract Services to Materials and Supplies. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Certification dates for the May 3rd, 2022, Primary Election were discussed. Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to set May 26th, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., for the official canvass and certification of the May 3rd, 2022, Election. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

The mask mandate was talked about once again. With an uptick in Covid numbers, it was stated that the mandate should not be changed at this time. The Board can choose not to call in a part-time worker. Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to change the office sign and make the wearing of a mask optional for employees. Mr. Pavella was unwilling to change the sign since the election is only two weeks out. The motion was not passed. Mrs. Lane tabled the mask discussion until the next meeting in May.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to cancel the next regular meeting on May 19th, and hold a special meeting for official certification on May 26th. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mr. Antenucci gave an update on IT support for election night and new building updates. Diane Sanko will be primary support on election night and one or two more individuals will be on standby.

NV5 and the County Commissioners are discussing cellular boosters to cover the entire new building since there is no cell phone reception and a whole building solution is needed. The original quote was just for the basement, where the Board of Elections will be located.

Regarding security, Glen Vernick, Director of Maintenance, is looking at a total security option.

There is substantial completion of the new building. ADP is planning on moving in early June with other departments to follow in late June and early July.

The public test started and Board members, staff, and visitors observed.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to go into Executive Session per the ORC Section 121.22 (G) (3) to conference with the Board's legal counsel, Corey Colombo, concerning imminent litigation, and ORC Section 121.22 (G) (1) to consider compensation of a public employee at 11:25 a.m., and to include Director Lane, Deputy Director McGinnis, and Scott Daisher. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. The roll call vote was taken by Deputy Director McGinnis: Mrs. Carson, Yes; Mrs. Windnagel, Yes; Mr. Ryder, Yes; Mr. Pavella, Yes.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to leave Executive Session at 12:10 p.m. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. The roll call vote was taken by Deputy Director McGinnis: Mrs. Carson, Yes; Mrs. Windnagel, Yes; Mr. Ryder, Yes; Mr. Pavella, Yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Ryder for the Board of Elections to authorize McTigue, Colombo & Clinger LLC to institute legal action pursuant to RC. 3501.17(A) against the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners should the County Prosecutor refuse to file an application for appointment of outside counsel to seek appropriations in an amount sufficient to provide the necessary and proper expenses of the Geauga County Board of Elections for "either a foam suppression system for the large storage room and programmer's room in the proposed office space at 12611 Ravenwood Drive (New Administration Building) or, in the alternative, appropriations for construction or lease of off-site storage for voting equipment and the expenses needed to locate the early-vote center in a portion of the proposed storage area" as well as the amount of \$11,117.64 for the additional legal work that was necessary for the law firm of McTigue Colombo & Clinger LLC to serve as special counsel to the Geauga County Board of Elections pursuant to the October 1, 2021 Judgment Entry in Geauga County Court of Common Pleas Case No. 21 Misc. 430. On March 25, 2022, the Board of Elections requested the appointment of outside special counsel as the County Prosecuting Attorney has a conflict of interest. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. The roll call vote was taken by Deputy Director McGinnis: Mrs. Windnagel, Yes; Mrs. Carson, Yes; Mr. Ryder, Yes; Mr. Pavella, Yes.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to increase training pay for the marshals to \$50 to match VLM training pay. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mrs. Carson suggested Mr. Ryder and Mr. Pavella work with Lori O'Neill to find storage space for the Board of Elections. A potential site is the old Berkshire High School. It may be possible to lease the back of the High School building.

Mr. MacNeal spoke of the reauthorization of virtual meetings and questioned if the February 9, 2022, meeting was publicized. He also commented on Form 13, the Declaration of Intent to be a Write-in Candidate, and questioned substantial compliance on all but one of the forms. Mrs. Stenzel stated that she felt it was unfair that her write-in petition was rejected. Mr. Ames made a comment that with two primaries, a voter can be one party and then another party for the second primary.

Director Report – Director Lane reported she has been re-organizing and assembling the Marshal binders. New documents and reporting pages have been added or replaced. Also, Director Lane suggested that the notice for the Newbury polling location change be advertised in the Good News as well as the Maple Leaf. Mrs. Lane also reworked and simplified the ballot accounting sheet for the end-of-day reporting for the poll workers. She is also waiting to hear back from the Secretary of State on whether any of the grant money received from the State can be used to pay poll worker salaries.

Deputy Director Report – Mrs. McGinnis reported that her focus has been on absentee voting and the sending and receiving of ballots. She also organized a number of visits and ballot preparation packets for the bi-partisan teams to travel to nursing homes and has kept the UOCAVA voters up to date. She is working with the Maintenance Department to have boxes moved to Archives for shredding and/or storage.

Mr. Ryder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Next meeting: Special Meeting May 3, 2022 – Primary Election

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS

Lelko for Council

Friends of Michael Bates

Friends of Mullins

Committee to Elect Dennis Bergansky

Payne and Taylor for Chardon School Board

Rambo for Trustee

Committee to Elect Jim Dvorak

Geauga Health District Levy

Munson Fire Levy

West Geauga Committee for Quality Education

Friends of Campbell

Balanced Political Solutions

Committee to Elect Ralph Spidalieri

Committee to Elect Jim Flaiz

Hildenbrand for Sheriff

Friends of Carolyn Paschke

Committee to Elect Majeski

Geauga Democratic Women's Caucus

WG Watch

Keep Judge Grendell

Metzenbaum Center Levy Committee

Friends of John Urbancic

Sheila Bevington Campaign

We Care for Kenston