

GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

SPECIAL MEETING

MARCH 17, 2020

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 A.M. by Chairman Ed Ryder. Present were Mr. Dennis Pavella, Mrs. Joan Windnagel, Mrs. Janet Carson, and Director Pete Zeigler.

Mr. Pavella made a motion based on Directive 2020-06 the polling locations will not be opening on March 17, 2020. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mr. Pavella made a motion to approve payment of the following bills as submitted. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

• ES&S	\$850.00
• BlueSpark	\$50,637.00
• Quill	\$599.76
• Sunrise Springs	\$30.80
• Barrett Brothers	\$1,350.00
• Blue Technologies	\$143.72
• KMI Printing	\$230.14
• Kiwanis Lake Comm. H. Assoc.	\$375.00
• TRIAD	\$1,490.00
• POV	\$1,264.86
• SHI	\$408.34
• Southern Computer Warehouse	\$31.58
• Chardon Oil	\$60.85
• Shetler Office Solutions	\$90.00
• Shetler Office Solutions	\$77.38
• Quill	\$15.06
• Uline	\$600.82
• Chardon Oil	\$61.64
• Shetler Office Solutions	\$219.40
• Shetler Office Solutions	\$101.42
• Chardon Oil	\$56.19
• 21 st Century Media Ohio	\$198.25
• ES&S	\$44,226.00
• Barbara Miller	\$46.00
• Barrett Brothers	\$1,910.00
• John Lucas	\$158.31
• Dick Depenbrok	\$29.44

- Uline \$214.88
- Uline \$597.65
- Blue Technologies \$22.07
- Sunrise Springs \$30.80
- Joan Windnagel \$10.89
- Joan Windnagel \$197.86
- Quill \$153.94
- Dan Craig \$36.17

Mr. Pavella made a motion to approve payment of the following other bills. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. Mr. Pavella, AYE; Mrs. Windnagel; and Mrs. Carson, AYE. Mr. Ryder, abstained.

- Geauga County Maple Leaf \$100.00
- Geauga County Maple Leaf \$214.20
- Geauga County Maple Leaf \$168.00
- Geauga County Maple Leaf \$100.00
- Geauga County Maple Leaf \$100.00

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to ratify the time frame to accept the Deputy Director applications until March 23, 2020. Mr. Pavella seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Pete Zeigler, Director, and the Board discussed the Press Conference held in Columbus, Ohio, by Governor DeWine and Frank LaRose, Ohio Secretary of State, on March 16, 2020, the Judge’s ruling in the lower Court, Dr. Acton’s decision regarding closing the polls on March 17, 2020, Directive 2020-06 suspending the Presidential Primary.

Mr. Pavella made a motion to authorize the Director Pete Zeigler to make arrangements to pay Poll Workers and Marshals for the March 17, 2020, primary in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$68,000. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Based on prior discussion by the Board in reducing the number of poll workers in multiple precinct polling locations, Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to adopt a modified poll worker requirements for future elections. Mr. Pavella seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Pete Zeigler, Director, discussed the Cure Period of ten days for the Absentee Ballots to be returned to the Board of Elections Office after the March 17, 2020, Primary. The Board Office may be open additional hours and weekend hours to accept the Ballots, and for any additional data needed on the ID envelope per the Secretary of State. The Geauga County Board of Elections was very ready for the Primary. The delivery team did a great job. The in-person voting and mail-in ballots more than doubled with well over 6,000 votes cast. March 14 – 16, 2020 over 1,000 voters were in the Board Office to cast their votes. The staff was concerned and upset that they put themselves at risk doing their jobs.

Mr. Ryder made a suggestion since the employees have expressed concerns for their own safety, their family's safety and health in possibly being exposed to the virus to ask the County Health Department or a local doctor here in Chardon do a Corona Virus test. A doctor's consent is needed, and the Board of Elections would pay for the cost of the test for any full-time or part-time seasonal employee.

The Director stated Absentee Ballots will be processed according to the Directive. Bi-Partisan teams will process the ballots, and check the outdoor drop box for Absentee Ballots.

The Board further discussed in great detail the events of closing the polls, the Judge's Order to not close the polls, the many phone calls from poll workers and voters, the Governor and Secretary of State Press Conference held on March 16, cancelling the Election on the Friday or Saturday before the Election, the Secretary of State Directive 2020-06 regarding closing the polls based on Dr. Acton's decision over health concerns. The Directive states that Presidential Primary Election was "suspended". The Board of Elections does not control their website. The Polls being closed was posted on the Board of Elections website on March 17, 2020, as soon as the Geauga County I.T. Department was able to do so.

Gauga County was prepared to have the Primary Election, and there are some counties that could have also held the Election. The Board thanked Director Pete Zeigler and Joan Windnagel, Board Member, for their help during the Primary.

Mr. Pavella made a motion to reimburse Board members for Election Day mileage. Mr. Ryder seconded the motion. Mr. Pavella, AYE; Mr. Ryder, AYE; and Mrs. Carson, AYE. Mrs. Windnagel, Nay.

Director Pete Zeigler recommended to hold off setting the Official Canvass Date and Audit Date (subject to a potential county wide recount). He was unbelievably proud of the staff during this Election cycle. Each polling location had a supply bag with Hand Sanitizer, sanitized wipes, and gloves.

Mr. Pavella made a motion to cancel the regularly scheduled March 19, 2020, meeting. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion.

There were no Unofficial Election Results to approve at this time.

Mr. Pavella made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 A.M. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2020.