

REGULAR MEETING

August 17, 2023

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dennis Pavella at 9:06 a.m. Present were Board Members Janet Carson, Joan Windnagel and Nancy McArthur, Director Michelle Lane, and Deputy Director Nora McGinnis. Guests attending in person were Dorothy Hoffacker, Kathy Johnson, Shelly Lewis from the League of Women Voters, Mark Madger, Sharon Madger and Molly Nikkila. Attending via Teams were Tiffanie Broadbent, Sharon Gingerich, and ShoMore DeNiro-Wright, Regional Liaison for the Secretary of State. Mr. Frank Antenucci joined the meeting via Teams at 10:30 a.m.

Deputy Director McGinnis reviewed the list of bills to approve:

Robert Amick	\$58.10
Kenneth Chuha	\$128.18
William Clark	\$44.28
Daniel Craig	\$149.86
Mark Halford	\$37.60
Thomas McGinnis	\$97.60
James Mekeel	\$64.71
Don Mohny	\$34.13
Kate Pitrone	\$23.32
Terrance Zion	\$49.58
Richard Depenbrok	\$38.58
Maureen Depenbrok	\$1.57
Quadient	\$20.90
Quill	\$98.98
Quill	\$507.06
Quill	\$70.99
Quill	\$311.95
Blue Technologies	\$331.39
Sunrise Springs	\$16.00

Mrs. Carson made a motion to pay the bills as presented by Mrs. McGinnis. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Campaign Finance reports for the following committees were submitted for Board approval:

Russell Police Dept. Levy Committee – 2022 Semiannual

Russell Police Dept. Levy Committee – 2022 Annual

Friends of Campbell – 2022 Annual

Committee to Elect Joe Cattell – 2022 Annual

Committee to Elect Joe Cattell – 2022 Semiannual

Committee to Elect Jim Dvorak – 2023 Semiannual

Friends of John Urbancic – 2023 Semiannual

Committee to Elect Ralph Spidalieri – 2023 Semiannual

Committee to Elect Walder for Auditor – 2023 Semiannual

WGWatch – 2022 Annual

WGWatch – 2023 Annual

Munson Fire Levy – 2023 Semiannual

Geauga Senior Services Levy – 2023 Semiannual

Geauga Health District Levy – 2023 Semiannual

Geaugans Opposed to Additional Taxes and Spending – 2023 Semiannual and Termination

West Geauga Committee for Quality Education – 2023 Semiannual

Geauga Citizens Preserving Libraries – 2023 Semiannual

Metzenbaum Center Levy Committee – 2023 Semiannual

Friends of Chester Twp. Fire Dept. – 2023 Semiannual

Geauga County Republican Party Central & Executive Committee – 2023 Semiannual

Committee to Elect Jim Flaiz – 2023 Semiannual

Citizens for Mental Health – 2023 Semiannual

Friends of Thompson Fire Dept. – 2023 Post Primary

Concerned Citizens of Thompson – 2023 Semiannual

Friends of Tim Lennon – 2023 Semiannual

Friends of Mullins – 2023 Semiannual

Sheila Bevington Campaign Fund – 2023 Semiannual

Hildenbrand for Sheriff – 2023 Semiannual

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to accept the campaign finance reports audited by staff. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to send failure to file notices to the Ohio Elections Commission for those committees that had not yet filed their campaign finance reports. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to move the report by Charles Walder down on the agenda to accommodate his schedule. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Director Lane started the discussion on the purchase of poll pads and pointed out that the State allotted \$63,513 for the purchase of new poll pads and we were reimbursed \$39,134 for the initial 35 poll pads that were purchased. There is \$24,379 left to use on poll pads. The State has not released the remainder of the funds and payment for the 95 new poll pads needs to be made to Knowink. The quote for the 95 poll pads is \$90,725. Payment can be made out of the BOE equipment fund and then reimbursed to that fund if and when the State funds are received.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to pay Knowink for the 95 new poll pads out of the BOE equipment fund. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

The Board of Elections needs to purchase 35 new poll pads to replace the initial 35 that no longer meet SOS standards. Mrs. McArthur made a motion to purchase the 35 new poll pads for the quoted priced of \$29,925, contingent on an MOU (Memorandum Of Understanding) being established and accepted by the Secretary of State's office. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Petition Certification – The following candidate petitions were reviewed and voted on to be accepted and certified to the ballot, or not accepted, pursuant to the recommendations of Kristen Rine, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Board Staff:

Benito Alvarez, candidate for West Geauga Local Board of Education. On one part-petition, a circulator failed to print her name in the circulator statement but did sign her name as circulator. This is not considered a fatal flaw. Mrs. McArthur made a motion to accept the petition. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Pamela Carson, candidate for Hambden Township Trustee. Mrs. McArthur made a motion to reject the petition due to insufficient valid signatures. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Deborah Chuha, candidate for Chardon City Council, and Kathy Leavenworth, candidate for West Geauga Local Board of Education. The two candidates had missing or incomplete election dates in the Statement of Candidacy. It was found that failure to include the election date is not a reason to invalidate a petition. Mrs. McArthur made a motion to accept both petitions. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Andrea Clark, candidate for Chardon Local Board of Education. One part-petition was not signed under the Statement of Candidacy. There were enough valid signatures on the other three part-petitions. Mrs. Carson made a motion to accept three part-petitions that had a signature under the Statement of Candidacy, and to reject the one part-petition that did not have a signature under the Statement of Candidacy. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

There was no action to take for Gerald Medinger, candidate for Hunting Valley Village Council since Cuyahoga County is the most populous county for that race.

Kate Mitchell, candidate for West Geauga Local Board of Education. Ms. Mitchell requested her name be placed on the ballot as Kate Mitchell Dietrich. Mrs. Carson made a motion to reject the request for the name change since she is still registered as Kate Mitchell and to approve the petition as Kate Mitchell. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried. A letter will be sent to inform Ms. Mitchell.

Sam Morrow, candidate for Middlefield Village Council. On one part-petition, Mr. Morrow collected an additional signature beyond the 18 signatures on the form. As long as the part-petition is valid, it can be accepted and the valid signature should count. Mrs. Carson made a motion to accept the petition. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mary Ann Pierce, candidate for Middlefield Fiscal Officer. Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to reject the petition due to insufficient valid signatures. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Barbara Rayburn, candidate for Cardinal Local Board of Education. Mrs. McArthur made a motion to reject the petition due to the Nominating Statement not being filled in and therefore the number of valid signatures was insufficient. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Keith Strever, candidate for Cardinal Local Board of Education. Mr. Strever collected two signatures that were dated prior to the date on the Statement of Candidacy. This invalidated the two signatures but not the entire part-petition. Mrs. McArthur made a motion to accept the petition. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Dorothy Hoffacker withdrew her candidacy for Chardon Local Board of Education. Mrs. Carson made a motion to accept the withdrawal. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to accept the petitions of the other candidates that were not previously discussed. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to accept all Questions and Issues for levies by townships and other entities to be put on the November General Election ballot. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mr. Frank Antenucci joined the meeting and updated the Board on the latest ADP activities. He noted that the purchase of 35 new poll pads was approved at the ADP meeting. He also stated that a lot of work is being done in the Board of Elections space in the basement of the Administration Building and that whenever anyone from the Board of Elections office meets with Gerry Morgan, then Linda Burhenne, the new Assistant County Administrator, should also be included. He suggested we check with Linda on whether other departments are moving back to 470 Center Street, and if 470 Center Street is listed to sell. The Office should educate Linda with the history of the BOE and the terms of the settlement agreement reached. Mrs. Carson asked about Wi-Fi and Mr. Antenucci said it is all working. Regarding the new website, Company 119 along with Board of Elections staff will work through any issues. Mrs. Carson stated there should be a better layout for cell phone users.

The total poll worker payroll for the August Special Election was \$53,425. Mrs. McArthur made a motion to approve the payroll for poll workers up to \$55,000. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Ballot quantities for the November General Election were discussed. Mrs. McGinnis stated that she had tentative numbers prepared based on registered voters + 1%. Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to approve ballot quantities based on the addition of new registrations + 1% and to order ballots for 100% of the new registration totals + 1%. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Appointment of Poll Workers for September 16, 2023 through September 15, 2024 – Mrs. McArthur made a motion to approve the list of poll workers as presented in the system and any others as deemed necessary by the Director and Deputy Director. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

The cell phone reimbursement category at the polling locations was questioned. Since the vast majority of cell phone users have unlimited calls, the cell phone reimbursement category will be removed and the \$10 will be given to the VLMs beginning with the November 2023 Election. The following will be

reviewed at the August 28, 2023, meeting: bi-partisan transport team pay for driver and rider, PEO training pay, VLM training pay, and Marshal training pay.

Mrs. Carson asked Director Lane if Board members can get mileage reimbursement for all the driving done on election day. Mrs. Lane will check with the Secretary of State's office. Mrs. Carson brought up preparing sample ballots with fun categories for kids on election day as a way to educate them about voting. Another suggestion was having "Future Voter" stickers for kids.

Director Lane said she would like the staff to help clean out the garage storage room for early voting in November for long voter lines. Then possibly only one tent would need to be set up by the Maintenance Department. Also, more "Vote Here" signs are needed at the polling locations and to replace old ones. A windsock type will also be priced out.

Director Report – Director Lane is working on finishing up the Security Grant as well as starting on the August Special Election funding. She is waiting to hear back from Ron Leyde, Deputy Auditor, on returning the unused grant funds to the SOS as soon as possible. Mrs. Lane stated that Adrian Gorton, Budget and Finance Manager, informed her that the Board of Elections budget hearing will be Tuesday, September 26, 2023, from 12:20 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. Director Lane is helping to look up voters and inputting into the provisional system.

Deputy Director Report – Deputy Director McGinnis has been working with the provisional ballots as well and assisting Mrs. Amick with organizing categories and inputting provisional information into the system. She assisted Director Lane with an internal audit and prepared the marshal mileage reimbursement forms for the Auditor.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Next meeting: August 28, 2023, 9:00 a.m. (*Special – Official Canvass*)