

## SPECIAL MEETING

August 28, 2023

## MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dennis Pavella at 9:08 a.m. Present were Board Members Janet Carson, Joan Windnagel and Nancy McArthur, Director Michelle Lane, and Deputy Director Nora McGinnis. Guest attending in person was Shelly Lewis from the League of Women Voters. Attending via Teams were Frank Antenucci, Sharon Gingerich, and Pamela McMahan.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to approve the August 8, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to approve the August 17, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Deputy Director McGinnis reviewed the list of bills to approve:

John Lucas	\$152.09
Lori O'Neill	\$53.06
Knowink	\$90,725.00
Quill	\$176.40
Scott Daisher	\$10.09

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

Mr. Antenucci gave an update on ADP activities. He commented on the power outage that occurred prior to the weekend during the big storm. The Administration Building was running on generator power for approximately 24 hours due to the power outage. Power was restored Friday night, August 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:51 p.m. Mrs. Carson asked whether or not the generator controls all the air conditioning in the building and was concerned with the storage area of the DS200 voting machines. Mr. Antenucci said server rooms are backed up by the generator for temperature control. The Board asked Director Lane to send a letter to Gerry Morgan, County Administrator, and Linda Burhenne, Assistant County Administrator, and inquire about temperature and humidity controls in the storage area.

The Board mentioned to Mr. Antenucci that the BOE office will need support on the new phone system in the early hours of Election Day for part-time employees due to the large number of calls from polling locations during setup. Mr. Antenucci said he would make sure someone is available at 5:30 a.m. to assist with phone support.

The 4-day Absentee ballots and 11-S absentee ballot supplements were examined.

There were 56, 4-day Absentee ballots with good postmarks of 8/7/23 or earlier. There were five 11-S Supplement forms returned on time. There were two envelopes with unreadable postmarks that were scanned for dates. Both had the date of 8/7/23 and therefore were on time. In total, 63 returns were reviewed for this category.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to accept all 63, 4-day Absentees and returned 11-S forms as recommended by staff. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

The Board reviewed six ID envelopes with 11-S forms that were not cured during the four-day cure period. There were two with no signatures, one with no ID envelope, and three to review for signatures. Of the three to review, one signature was printed and did not match the signature on file which was in cursive. One signature did not match the signature on file. One signature was decided to be similar to the signature on file.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to accept one additional ballot out of the six uncured ballots, which had a similar signature, and to not count the remaining five uncured ballots. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: Mr. Pavella, Yes; Mrs. Windnagel, Yes; Mrs. McArthur, Yes; Mrs. Carson, No. Motion carried.

After further review of one of the ID envelopes and comparing the ID envelope signature to the absentee ballot application signature, it was decided to accept one of the previously rejected ballots.

Mr. Pavella made a motion to accept one additional ballot out of the five remaining uncured ballots due to the ID envelope signature matching the absentee ballot application signature, even though it did not match the signature on file. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. The new signature will be scanned to the voter's record.

After reviewing one of the accepted ID envelopes with a satisfactory signature, it was determined that the issue with the ID envelope was actually an incorrect ID. Therefore, a new motion was made.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to reject one ballot that was previously accepted due to an incorrect SSN. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

The Board reviewed 14, 4-day ballots with late postmarks. There were seven with a postmark on or after 8/8/23. There were two with a good postmark but received after the four-day deadline. There were two with unreadable postmarks. After scanning, one had a good postmark of 7/25/23 and the other remained unreadable. Both were received after the four-day deadline. One with no postmark was scanned with a date of 8/9/23. There were two UOCAVA ballots returned after the deadline. Three ballots were returned with no stub attached or in the envelope.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to not accept the 17 ballots that arrived with a late postmark, or after the 4-day deadline, or with no stub. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Next, provisional ballots were considered. Mrs. McGinnis presented the following:

There were 24 provisional ballots from voters that had requested an absentee ballot but either did not receive them or did not vote them.

There were 65 address changes within Geauga County.

There were 126 provisional ballots from registered voters in Ohio that moved to Geauga County.

There were 30 provisional ballots with name changes.

There were 29 provisional ballots with the 12-O Affidavit of Religious Objection form attached.

There were five provisional ballots where the voter provided ID during the four-day cure period.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to count the 279 provisional ballots reviewed above as recommended by staff. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mrs. McGinnis then presented 156 provisional ballots for further Board review and consideration.

There were 56 voters who voted provisionally due to an expired driver's license or no picture ID.  
There were 72 voters not registered in Ohio that voted provisionally.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to not count the 128 provisional ballots due to expired IDs, no picture ID, or not registered in the State of Ohio. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

One provisional ballot was presented where the voter listed their previous street name as their new registration address.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to reject the one provisional ballot due to insufficient address. Mr. Pavella seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

One provisional ballot was presented with a date-of-birth issue. The voter used current year but did not have their correct month and day.

Mr. Pavella made a motion to accept the one provisional ballot with the current year listed instead of birth year. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Two provisional ballots were presented where the voters driver's license number did not match their voter registration record.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to not accept the two provisional ballots with incorrect driver's license numbers. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Two voters declined to sign the poll pad and therefore had to vote provisionally.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to accept the two provisional ballots from the voters that did not sign the poll pad but did sign the provisional affirmation. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

There were six voters who were in K-status/active NCOA which requires voting a provisional ballot.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to accept the 6 provisional ballots as recommended by staff. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

There was one provisional ballot with a signature that did not completely match their signature on file due to a decline in health. The voter had a family member present.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to accept the one provisional ballot with the signature issue based on the voter's ability to sign. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

There were 12 provisional ballots designated as poll worker errors. Two provisional voters voted in Bainbridge and should have voted in Auburn based on their address. The poll worker had them vote in Bainbridge. One voter used a Cuyahoga County address as their home address and should not have voted in Geauga County. Nine provisional envelopes were varied errors by poll workers.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to accept the two provisional ballots from Bainbridge that should have voted in Auburn and to reject the one provisional ballot with the Cuyahoga address. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to accept the nine provisional ballots with varied poll worker errors. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

One provisional ballot was from a previously incarcerated person. The voter is considered a non-registered voter due to not being registered anywhere in the State of Ohio and will be registered after the provisional envelope is processed.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to not count the one provisional ballot because the voter was not registered anywhere in the State of Ohio. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Two provisional voters voted the wrong precinct ballot. One was given the wrong precinct ballot by a poll worker. The other voter was given notice that they were in the wrong location but still wanted to vote there.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to accept the one provisional voter that was given the wrong precinct ballot and to reject the one provisional voter that knowingly voted in the wrong location and signed the 12-D Provisional Voter Precinct Verification Form. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

There were two Fleeing Voter envelopes. One was a ballot voted in the BOE office during early voting. The voter walked out before making sure their ballot was accepted into the DS200. The other was a curbside voter at the polls who left before the bipartisan team could let them know their ballot was returned from the DS200.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion, based off of the Directive, to not count the one fleeing voter's ballot that left the office before making sure their ballot was accepted into the DS200. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: Mr. Pavella, Yes; Mrs. Windnagel, Yes; Mrs. McArthur, Yes; Mrs. Carson, Abstain. Motion carried.

Mr. Pavella made a motion to accept the one fleeing voter's ballot that was a curbside voter. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

The accepted 4-Day Absentee and Provisional ballots were run through the scanner. No ballots needed to be reviewed or remade.

Victoria Nicholas, candidate for the Chardon Local School Board, submitted a letter requesting to be removed from the ballot. Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to accept the withdrawal of Victoria Nicholas. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mr. Pavella made a motion to allow the use of two drop boxes at the Board of Elections during early voting since they are set up next to each other. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Polling locations for the November General Election were discussed. Chardon City C and D will return to the Heritage House. Postcards will be sent out to voters informing them of their return to that location.

Poll worker payroll was further discussed. It was decided to increase the training pay for all PEO positions and to increase the amount paid to drivers and riders from more distant polling locations. The cell phone reimbursement was also eliminated. In review, the following increases were decided:

Marshals training pay from \$40 to \$70;  
Voting Location Managers training pay from \$50 to \$70;  
Poll Workers and Substitutes training pay from \$40 to \$50;

Return trip Election night (mid-range) – Drivers - from \$20 to \$25 / Riders – from \$15 to \$20;  
Return trip Election night (long-range) – Drivers - from \$25 to \$30 / Riders – from \$20 to \$25;

Mr. Pavella made a motion to approve the above increases for poll workers. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to accept and approve the Official Canvass of the August 8, 2023, Special Election. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Mr. Daisher joined the meeting to assist with the determination of precincts and dates for the post-election audit. The audit requires 5% of votes cast which comes out to 1,790 ballots. The precinct names were pulled out of a box until the minimum of 1,790 ballots was reached.

Chardon Twp D: 552  
Newbury Twp A: 566  
Burton Twp C: 330  
Chardon Twp C: 595

The total number of ballots to count for the audit will be 2,043.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to hold the post-election audit on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. using the precincts pulled. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE.

Director Report – Director Lane is working on the August Special Election funding and has also inquired about Board Members receiving mileage reimbursement for Election Day. She is waiting to hear back from the Secretary of State's Office. She has also been responding to public records requests as she gets input from our Assistant Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Deputy Director Report – Deputy Director McGinnis reviewed all the provisional and 4-day absentee ballots and reports to present them to the Board for Official Certification. She also worked with Kristen Rine, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, to prepare documents and notices for the hearing to be held later in the day. Mrs. McGinnis is also helping with the organization of the August funding.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 p.m. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Next meeting: August 28, 2023, 2:00 p.m. (*Special – Hearing*)