

SPECIAL MEETING

November 20, 2023

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dennis Pavella at 1:08 p.m. Present were Board Members Joan Windnagel, Nancy McArthur, and Janet Carson, Director Michelle Lane, and Deputy Director Nora McGinnis. Guests attending in person were Shelly Lewis, Mark Madger, Sharon Madger, and ShoMore DeNiro-Wright, Regional Liaison from the Secretary of State's office. Attending via Teams were Frank Antenucci and Sharon Gingerich.

Deputy Director McGinnis reviewed the list of bills to approve:

Robert Amick	\$52.20
Kenneth Chuha	\$143.12
William Clark	\$37.07
Daniel Craig	\$154.38
Mark Halford	\$42.58
Tom McGinnis	\$99.56
James Mekeel	\$45.98
Don Mohney	\$14.74
Lori O'Neill	\$71.98
Kim Rushworth	\$28.75
Terrance Zion	\$50.70
Richard Depenbrok	\$33.93
John Lucas	\$172.72
Sunrise Springs	\$59.50
Chardon Oil	\$75.60
Quadient	\$180.00
Intab	\$484.50
Auburn Twp	\$175.00
Quill	\$84.95
Quill	\$150.15
Knowink	\$29,925.00

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

Mrs. Carson made a motion to move up the ADP update on the agenda to be considerate of Mr. Antenucci's time. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Frank Antenucci reported that currently the primary focus in the new BOE space is the security cameras. He has been working with the County Commissioners office concentrating on the cameras that will be

focused on the drop box. Boring is required for proper installation and placement, and a vendor will need to be selected for the installation. Quotes for new cameras have been sent out. The estimated cost is between \$50,000 - \$80,000, with the highest cost being the high-end cameras, and the next highest cost being the boring. There will be a separate pole mounting system with two continuous feed cameras on the drop box. Mr. Antenucci reported on enhanced phishing attacks being used by scammers and the extra security and safeguards that are being installed to protect the county. Mrs. Carson inquired about the phone issues at the office on Election Day, such as calls going directly to voicemail and polling locations not getting through to the office. Mr. Antenucci replied that they will work closely with the BOE office to determine exactly how the phones should work on Election Day.

Next on the agenda was ruling on postmarks for 6-day ballots and 11-s forms.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to accept the one ballot that was addressed for voter intent. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Laura Amick, Absentee Supervisor, presented the 6-day absentee ballots.

There were 69 acceptable ballots:

- 60 - good postmark (11/6/23 or earlier)
- 8 - mailed-in ID envelope corrections/11-s supplements
- 1 - unreadable postmark received on time (postmark scanned with 11/5/23 date)

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to accept the 69 absentee ballots. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

There were 22 ballots with late postmarks and/or received after the deadline:

- 14 - postmark 11/7/23 or later
- 1 - good postmark but received after deadline (11/6/23 postmark, arrived 11/17/23)
- 1 - unreadable postmark/would not scan (re-scanned with 11/4/23 date)
- 6 - no postmark (Five would not scan, one scanned with 11/13/23 date)

Mrs. Carson made a motion to accept the one re-scanned ballot with the date of 11/4/23. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to not accept the 21 ballots that were received late or had no postmark. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

There were four UOCAVA ballots that were received after the deadline.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to not accept the four UOCAVA ballots that were received after the deadline. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Next, provisional ballots were considered. Mrs. Amick first presented the following 248 provisional ballots:

There were 20 provisional ballots from voters that had requested an absentee ballot but either did not receive them or did not vote them.

There were 84 address changes within Geauga County.

There were 87 provisional ballots from registered voters in Ohio that moved to Geauga County.

There were 16 provisional ballots with name changes.

There were 37 provisional ballots with the 12-O Affidavit of Religious Objection form attached.

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

Mrs. Carson made a motion to count the 248 provisional ballots reviewed above as reviewed and recommended by staff. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Amick then presented 155 provisional ballots for further Board review and consideration.

There were 67 voters who voted provisionally due to ID issues:

- 62 - expired driver's license or no picture ID
- 1 - provided ID but it was not written on provisional envelope
- 2 - no 12-O Religious Objection form
- 1 - driver's license did not match the voter registration but the SS# was correct
- 1 - SS# was incorrect

Mrs. Carson made a motion to not accept 65 provisionals with ID issues and to accept one provisional that provided ID and did not write it on the envelope and accept one provisional where the driver's license did not match the registration but the SS# was correct. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

There were 57 voters not registered in Ohio that voted provisionally.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to not count the 57 provisional ballots that were not registered voters in the State of Ohio. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

One provisional ballot was presented where the voter listed an incorrect house number but all other information was correct.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to accept the one provisional ballot with the incorrect house number. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Six provisional ballots were presented with date-of-birth issues:

- 4 - provisional envelopes had missing birthdates
- 1 - voter wrote the current year but had the correct month and day
- 1 - provisional had a date-of-birth discrepancy with their registration

Mrs. Carson made a motion to not accept the four provisionals with missing birthdates and to accept the two with year discrepancies. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Regional Liaison, ShoMore DeNiro-Wright, left the meeting at this time.

Mrs. Amick next presented two provisionals where the voters were in K-status/active NCOA which requires voting a provisional ballot.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to accept the two provisional ballots by voters in K-status. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Six provisional ballots were presented where the voters did not sign the provisional affirmation.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to not accept the six provisional ballots with missing signatures. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

One provisional was missing the name.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to not accept the one provisional ballot with no name. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

There were 13 provisional envelopes presented that were attributed to poll worker errors:

- 2 - showed incorrect information in the system
- 1 - wrong ID number entered during early voting so voter voted provisionally

- 5 - no reason given by the poll worker
- 1 - voted in wrong precinct but correct polling location
- 3 - voted in wrong precinct and wrong polling location
- 1 - provisional ballot was put through DS200 at polling location

Mrs. Carson made a motion to accept the two provisional ballots with incorrect information in the system. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to accept the one provisional ballot where the wrong ID number was entered. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to accept the five provisional ballots with no reason given by the poll workers. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to accept the one provisional ballot that was voted in the wrong precinct but correct polling location. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to not accept the three provisional ballots that were voted in the wrong precinct and wrong polling location. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

The Board acknowledged the one ballot that was put through the DS200.

Two provisional voters had already voted during early voting.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to not accept the two provisional ballots from voters that had already voted. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

There were two Fleeing Voter envelopes.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion, based off of the Directive, to not count the two ballots left by fleeing voters. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

The accepted 6-day Absentee and Provisional ballots were run through the scanner. Mr. Daisher joined the meeting and presented three ballots to the Board for review and determination of voter intent.

The first ballot had an invalid write-in and it was acknowledged by the Board. Voter intent on the other two ballots was determined by the Board.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to remake and accept the two ballots that were addressed for voter intent. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to move the poll worker payroll topic to after the determination of ballots. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Cathy Hall Gillette sent the poll worker payroll to the Auditor's office for review and verification. The total payroll was \$64,120. This amount could increase since payroll is still waiting on W9s.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to accept the poll worker payroll up to \$65,000. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

There was no other business necessary to legally certify the Official Canvass.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to certify the Official Canvass. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to move the Executive Session to before the Director's report. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Polling locations for the 2024 elections were discussed. Other options for West Woods Nature Center (since it will not be available in November 2024), are Fairmount Center for the Arts on Fairmount Rd. and the EOUV Center on Pekin Rd. ASM on Kinsman Rd. was determined to be too small. Mrs. Lane discussed working with the polling locations to update the contracts. More locations are requesting delivery and pickup of equipment the day before and day after election day. Due to limited resources, that is not something our equipment team can accommodate. The contracts will be reviewed to determine next steps. Mrs. Carson mentioned that on election day, people were placing political literature on a table in the lobby of the Bainbridge Library. For the future, the library will be asked to remove the table on election day. Also, a couple of the churches had pamphlets and brochures on their bulletin board relating to issues on the ballot. The poll workers should be cognizant of that when setting up their polling locations.

Director Lane asked the Board about Christmas break for the staff. In past years, the office closed between Christmas and New Years if the staff agreed to use comp or vacation days. Since the filing deadline is December 20, 2023, the checking of petition signatures may require the staff to be present for part of the holiday week. January 2, 2024, is the deadline for Boards to certify candidates' petitions and local option petitions. January 8, 2024, is the deadline for write-in candidates to file.

It was determined that the race for the Chardon Local School District will have an automatic recount. The threshold to determine the recount for that race was 55.71 votes. The difference between third and fourth place was 52 votes. Possible recounts in the Parkman Township Trustees race and Troy Township Trustees race would be by request of candidates in those races. The number of votes in those races did not fall under an automatic recount.

Dates for the recount and post-election audit were considered. Tentatively, the recount will be held December 7, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. and the post-election audit will be held December 14, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. January 2, 2024, is being considered for the certification of 2024 Primary Candidate and Issues petitions.

The Director and Deputy Director will give their reports at the next Board meeting. Executive Session will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:52 p.m. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Next meeting: (Tentative) December 7, 2023, 1:00 p.m., Recount