

## SPECIAL MEETING

January 2, 2024

## MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dennis Pavella at 2:05 p.m. Present were Board Members Janet Carson, Nancy McArthur, and Joan Windnagel, Director Michelle Lane, and Deputy Director Nora McGinnis. Attending in person was guest, Richard Piraino. Attending on Teams were Shelly Lewis and Sharon Madger.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to approve the December 14, 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:

Uline	\$68.88
Graphic Village	\$726.00
DEX Imaging	\$148.58
Quill	\$66.46
Quill	\$125.97
Michelle Lane	\$97.22
Nora McGinnis	\$58.43
Chardon Oil	\$80.26

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to pay the bills as presented by Mrs. McGinnis. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried. Mrs. Carson's mileage from Election Day, November 7, 2023, will be added to next month's bills.

County Auditor, Charles Walder, was not in attendance, therefore, there was no ADP update.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to move the certification of petitions down on the agenda to before the Director's report. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Ballot allocation for the March 19, 2024, Primary was reviewed. Deputy Director McGinnis presented spreadsheets she put together to determine the number of ballots to order by precinct, party, and issues only, based on number of registered voters. Since not all precincts will have issues only ballots, the totals will be re-allocated. The total number of registered voters (67,809) + 1% is equal to 68,487. The Board discussed the total and decided to order a total of 68,500 ballots.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to re-allocate the ballot totals as discussed and eliminate the majority of issues only ballots and transfer those numbers to precincts with higher numbers of Democrats and Republicans. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Cameras at the County Administration Building for the purpose of license plate reading were discussed. The Sheriff's Department offered the cameras and said they would be placed out by Route 44 and Ravenwood Dr. Linda Burhenne, Assistant County Administrator, stated that if the Sheriff's Department wants the cameras, they can take it out of their budget. The Board of Elections did not see a benefit of having the cameras out by Route 44.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to decline the offer for cameras. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Director Lane stated that Mark Halford, a long-time Marshal for the Board of Elections, would like to do a presentation for the Geauga Growth Partnership, on the topic of being a Marshal on Election Day. The Board asked that Mr. Halford send his presentation to Mrs. Lane beforehand to review.

Director Lane has set up meetings and will request quotes from three different security companies for the installation of a security system in the Board of Elections area at the County Administration Building. A security system for the Board of Elections must be installed and operational prior to any equipment being moved there. Otherwise, voting equipment will need to be moved twice – first, back to 470 Center St., after the Primary Election, and then again when the office officially moves to the County Administration Building on Ravenwood Drive. Mrs. Lane and Mr. Daisher have already met with Gillmore Security. Gillmore Security would package up our current system at 470 Center St. and have those parts available at the County Administration Building if needed. Mrs. Lane will be meeting with ADT Security tomorrow, January 3, and with Guardian Security on Friday, January 5. Mrs. Carson recommended reviewing the settlement agreement regarding security.

The certification of petitions was performed next. Laura Amick, Absentee Supervisor, brought in all the petition folders for the Board to review.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to certify Republican candidates Matt Dolan, Frank LaRose, and Bernie Moreno, to the ballot for U.S. Senator. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to certify Democratic candidate Sherrod Brown to the ballot for U.S. Senator. Mr. Pavella seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to certify Republican candidates David Joyce, Mark Zetzer, and Kenneth Polke, to the ballot for U.S. Representative to Congress 14<sup>th</sup> District. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to certify candidate Colleen Mary O'Toole to the ballot for Judge 11<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals, full term commencing 2/10/2025. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to certify candidate John Eklund to the ballot for Judge 11<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals, full term commencing 2/9/2025. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

The petition filed by Scott Lynch, candidate for Judge in the 11<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals, commencing 2/10/25, was examined. The signature of the circulator of one of the part-petitions was in question. The signature on part-petition #3 was that of David Lynch, the father of Scott Lynch. David Lynch's signature did not appear to match any signatures on file at the Board of Elections.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to accept the part-petitions with valid circulator signatures, filed by candidate Scott Lynch for Judge in the 11<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals, commencing 2/10/25, and to reject part-petition #3 for the circulator signature not matching any signature on file. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to certify Democratic candidates Melody Stewart, Michael Donnelly, Lisa Forbes, and Terri Jamison to the ballot for Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. Mr. Pavella seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to certify Republican candidates Daniel Hawkins, Megan Shanahan, and Joseph Deters, to the ballot for Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

The Primary date on Louis Murphy's petition was filled in as 3/19/23 and not 3/19/24. The incorrect year is not considered a fatal flaw. Mr. Pavella made a motion to certify Democratic candidate Louis Murphy to the ballot for State Representative 99<sup>th</sup> District. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to certify Republican candidate Steve Demetriou to the ballot for State Representative 35<sup>th</sup> District. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to certify Republican candidate Sarah Fowler Arthur to the ballot for State Representative 99<sup>th</sup> District. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to certify Democratic candidate Mary Jane Trapp to the ballot for Judge of Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Pavella seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to certify Republican candidate Matthew Rambo to the ballot for Judge of Court of Common Pleas. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to certify Republican candidate Andrew W. Haupt to the ballot for County Engineer. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to certify Republican candidate James R. Flaiz to the ballot for County Prosecuting Attorney. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. McArthur made a motion to certify Republican candidate Sheila Bevington to the ballot for Clerk of Courts. Mrs. Windnagel seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to certify Republican candidate Christopher Hitchcock to the ballot for County Treasurer. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to certify Republican candidate Celesta Mullins to the ballot for County Recorder. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to certify Republican candidate Scott A. Hildenbrand to the ballot for Sheriff. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to certify Republican candidate John Urbancic to the ballot for Coroner. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to certify Republican candidate Carolyn Brakey to the ballot for County Commissioner, commencing 1/2/2025. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to certify Republican candidate Walter Claypool to the ballot for County Commissioner, commencing 1/2/2025. Mrs. McArthur seconded the motion. All voted: AYE. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to certify Republican candidate Ralph Spidalieri to the ballot for County Commissioner, commencing 1/3/2025. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. AYES, Mr. Pavella, Mrs. Carson, Mrs. Windnagel. Abstain, Mrs. McArthur. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to certify Republican candidate Nancy McArthur to the ballot for County Commissioner, commencing 1/3/2025. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. AYES, Mr. Pavella, Mrs. Carson, Mrs. Windnagel. Abstain, Mrs. McArthur. Motion carried.

At this time, Board member Nancy McArthur, handed in her resignation letter to Chair Dennis Pavella. Mrs. McArthur stated that her petition had been certified and asked that the Board accept her resignation as member of the Board of Elections.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to accept the resignation of Nancy McArthur as member of the Board of Elections. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. AYES, Mr. Pavella, Mrs. Carson, Mrs. Windnagel. Motion carried.

Next to be considered was the list of candidates who submitted Declarations of Candidacy for the County Democratic Central Committee.

Mrs. Carson made a motion to approve the list of Democratic candidates for Central Committee as submitted and recommended by staff except to have a separate vote on one candidate. Mr. Pavella seconded the motion. AYES, Mr. Pavella, Mrs. Carson, Mrs. Windnagel. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the Declaration of Candidacy for Democratic Central Committee candidate Joseph Samuel Morrow from Middlefield Village B. In a written statement, Mr. Morrow requested his name be shown on the ballot as Sam Morrow. After consideration by the Board, it was decided to deny Mr. Morrow's request, but to notify him that his name on the ballot can be Joseph Sam Morrow or J. Sam Morrow.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to accept the Declaration of Candidacy submitted by Joseph Samuel Morrow from Middlefield Village B, and to notify Mr. Morrow of the Board's decision regarding his name on the ballot. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. AYES, Mr. Pavella, Mrs. Carson, Mrs. Windnagel. Motion carried.

Director Report – Director Lane has been working on the security directive as well as setting up meetings and preparing for the purchase and installation of a security system in the Board of Elections area in the basement of the County Administration building. She has also been proofing candidate petitions and local issues with Mrs. McGinnis to prepare for the programming of ballots. Mrs. Lane met with Glen Vernick, Maintenance Supervisor, to arrange for the garage to be emptied and cleaned to prepare for voters during absentee voting.

Deputy Director Report – Mrs. McGinnis has been assisting Mrs. Lane with the security directive as well as the proofing of candidate petitions and local issues. Deputy Director McGinnis prepared the ballot order numbers for the primary election, completed all the paperwork necessary for each employee and Board member attending the annual conference, and continues to work on various administrative tasks.

Mrs. Windnagel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. Mrs. Carson seconded the motion. AYES, Mr. Pavella, Mrs. Windnagel, Mrs. Carson. Motion carried.

*Next meeting: January 29, 2024, 1:00 p.m.*