



BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES

Thursday, January 28, 2021, 1:00 P.M.

Virtual – [BlueJeans](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Centre County Board of Elections was convened at 1:03 PM by Chair of the Board, Commissioner Steven Dershem.

In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray, Elections Coordinator Jodi Nedd, Voter Registration Coordinator Latisha Stefanko, Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith and Staff Assistant Jillian Savage.

Media present included WJAC.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Act 15 of 2020 – Unsworn Declarations for Campaign Finance Reports

Commissioner Pipe reported that unsworn declarations are appropriate for individuals who have filed in Centre County to run for office or who will be running for office to be able fill out. The reason the Governor and Legislator passed this, is that it doesn't enforce notarization during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Jodi Nedd agreed Unsworn Declarations eliminate the committee chairs or candidates from having to get their campaign finance reports notarized. As long as they submit one of the unsworn declarations with their campaign finance reports, the reports will be accepted. Unsworn declarations were not included in the annual report reminders as Jodi had not heard from the Department of State at that time if they were still allowing the use of unsworn declarations.

Commissioner Pipe stated that the document is a two-page form that replaces the affidavit section on the campaign finance report or statement. Candidates only fill out the top. For political committees without a specific candidate, the treasurer signs. Jodi working with ITS to have a digital copy available on the County website. Jodi clarified that this only applies to the campaign finance aspect of petitioning, the candidates' affidavit will still need to be notarized.

Commissioner Dershem asked if this would become effective today if approved. Commissioner Pipe stated it would be effective today.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the option of the replacement of the notarization of the notarization requirement for campaign finance reports and statements with an unsworn declaration as allowed in Act 15 of 2020.*

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Center for Tech and Civic Life Expenditure Report

Commissioner Pipe reported that in 2020 the County applied for and received \$863,828.50 from the Center for Tech and Civic Life. The grant requires submission of a report by the end of January on the categories in which the money was spent. The categories are as follows; ballot drop boxes, \$101,848.55, personal protective equipment for staff, poll workers or voters, \$25,971, poll worker recruitment funds, hazard pay, and/or training expenses, \$75,378, polling place rental and cleaning expenses, \$19,537.59, temporary staffing support, \$38,105.86, election department real estate costs or costs associated with satellite election department office, \$4,300, vote-by-mail/absentee voting equipment or supplies, \$250,989.09, election administration equipment, \$188,752.24, non-partisan voter education, \$26,313.77, temporary staffing hazard pay, \$18,100, vote-by-mail worker pay, \$8,343.32, and polling place accessibility improvements, \$20,989. Total expenditures came to \$778,628.42. The Center for Tech and Civic Life does allow for a 6-month extension, which allows for the remaining \$85,200.08 to be used in the 2021 Primary Election.

***Action:** On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to APPROVE the submission of the Final Report for 2020 expenditures of the CTCL grant.*

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Pipe reviewed that, as discussed during the January 28 Elections Board meeting, Jodi and Latisha Stefanko are still working on new polling locations, candidate packets will be finalized within the next few days, and Jodi is working with ITS to develop a website for digital copies.

VI. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

First day to circulate and file nomination petitions.

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Last day to circulate and file nomination petitions.

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

First day to file nomination papers.

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Last day to file objections to nomination petitions.

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Last day for withdrawal by candidates who filed nomination petitions.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jillian Savage
Staff Assistant, Commissioners' Office