



BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES

Thursday, February 18, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

Virtual – [BlueJeans](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Centre County Board of Elections was convened at 10:04 AM by Chair of the Board, Commissioner Steven Dershem.

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Board of Elections meeting held on Thursday, February 11, 2021.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Candidate's Unsworn Declaration

Jodi Nedd reported that the Department of State has provided candidates unsworn declarations for candidates to file with their petitions instead of having a candidate's affidavit notarized on the petition. She is asking the Board for permission to accept these. The Board was in agreement that this was acceptable. On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the use of Candidate's unsworn declarations provided by the Department of State.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Re-Certification of 2020 Election Results

Solicitor Betsy Dupuis reported that she had spoken with the General Counsel Office at the Department of State. The State had not explicitly said what process will be used for the re-certification of the 2020 election results. They had indicated that a filing with the commonwealth court may be involved. The primary issue is that since the election was certified by the Secretary in December, there is no simple way to do a re-certification, or submit an amendment. The Office of General Counsel is researching the situation but had no answer as of their last correspondence. The Board has two potential options:

1. Defer the matter until a plan can be presented to the Board.
2. Authorize Jodi, acting on behalf of the Elections Office, and Betsy, as solicitor, to take whatever action necessary to complete the process of recertifying the election.

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Commissioner Dershem stated this matter needed immediate attention and he was in favor of allowing Jodi and Betsy to have meetings with the Department of State to resolve this quickly. Commissioners Pipe and Higgins agreed that authorizing Jodi and Betsy would be the best option. On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to approve Betsy and Jodi moving forward with the Department of State, in correspondence to resolve the re-certification of the 2020 election results.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

VII. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jillian Savage
Staff Assistant, Commissioners' Office