



## BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES

Thursday, March 16, 2023 2:00 P.M.

Willowbank Office Building

420 Holmes Street, Room 146

Bellefonte, PA 16823

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Centre County Board of Elections was convened at 2:00 P.M. by Chris Exarchos.

In attendance were Chris Exarchos, Chris Fowler (zoom), Vicki Fong, Administrator John Franek Jr., Director of Elections Beth Lechman, Solicitor Betsy Dupuis, and Executive Officer Supervisor Erin Good.

County personnel present included Jodi Nedd, Commissioner Higgins, and Commissioner Concepcion.

Guests present included Marie Librizzi, Thomas Rishell, Michelle Schelberg, Nate Campbell, Julie Fitzgerald, Donna Smith, Kim Kellerman-Domin, Bruce Domin, Celesta Powell, Amy Bader, Nathan Bish, Daniel Kolbe, Megan Layng, Ken Layng, Shirley Gorski, Joanne Varsey, Ethel Kellerman, Josh Portney, Tony Sapia, Benjamin Narehood, Vicky Vanada, Mike Rupert, Ryan Newman, and Beth Cower.

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Thomas Rishell of Benner Township gave public comment on Elections Law Violations.

Michelle Schelberg gave public comment on Act 77.

### IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions made to the Agenda.

### V. MINUTES

The Board will consider approving the minutes from the November 28, 2022 Board of Elections meeting.

*Action: On a motion by Vicki Fong, seconded by Chris Fowler, the board voted unanimously to accept the minutes from November 28, 2022 meeting.*

### VI. OLD BUSINESS

### VII. MUNICIPAL PRIMARY

A. Conduct casting of lots for all candidates on the Municipal Primary, May 16, 2023.

Beth Lechman conducted the casting of the lots for all the candidates for the 2023 Municipal Election.

Chris Exarchos stated he would like to see in the future for the candidates that show up to the Elections meeting for the casting of the lots, that they should have priority to draw first instead of going by alphabetical order.

Chris Fowler stated that it does not change the statistics of the chance with a random draw if they were to go earlier or not but would support this since the candidates made the effort to show up to the meeting.

*Action: On a motion by Chris Fowler, seconded by Vicki Fong, the Board voted unanimously to change the process of casting of the lots for future Elections to allow candidates who show up to the Elections meeting to have priority to draw first versus going by alphabetical order.*

Vicki Fong stated that it needs to properly be advertised for the future candidates of this change so they can make the proper arrangements to attend the Elections meeting if they would be interested.

B. Haines Township ballot question petition

- i. Olde Village Mercantile Company, located at 144 West Aaron Square, Aaronsburg, PA to sell alcohol and hold special tasting events at their location

Beth Cower, the owner of Olde Village Mercantile Company gave public comment on specifically making her store area a wet area for un-opened alcoholic products to be purchased for takeout only, which resides in Haines Township, which is a dry Township.

Chris Exarchos recommended that Beth contact a liquor control attorney and the PA Liquor Control Board and resubmit the petition to get it on the November Election.

*Action: On a motion by Vicki Fong, seconded by Chris Fowler, the Board voted unanimously to deny petition by Haines Township resident as the proposed ballot question does not meet the requirements of the liquor code.*

- C. Consider approval of the location for a function agreement with The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center for the Poll Worker Training. The estimated cost is \$5,380.00 which was budgeted for the period of April 28, 2023 to May 5, 2023 – Dept 131.

*Action: On a motion by Chris Fowler, seconded by Vicki Fong, the Board voted unanimously to approve the location of the function agreement with The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center for Poll Worker Training.*

- D. Consider approval of the location of a function agreement with The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center for the Vote by Mail Processing Room. The estimated cost is \$14,925.00 which was budgeted for the period of May 12, 2023 to May 18, 2023 – Dept 131.

*Action: On a motion by Vicki Fong, seconded by Chris Fowler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the location of a function agreement with The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center for Vote-By-Mail processing.*

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E. Review quantities of Ballots to purchase for the Municipal Primary

Beth stated there is a formula that is used to determine the number of ballots that are ordered for the Spring Election and they will be using 65% of the registered voters at each Precinct.

*Action: On a motion by Vicki Fong, seconded by Chris Fowler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the quantities of vote-by-mail ballots, absentee, provisional and Election Day ballots for the Municipal Primary.*

F. Polling Locations

i. Change of Polling Locations:

1. Precinct # 5 Bellefonte West from Bellefonte Public Library to Bellefonte Presbyterian Church 203 N Spring Street
2. Precinct # 11 Philipsburg #2 from Hope Fire Co Rec Center to First Lutheran Church 20 N Centre St
3. Precinct #12 Philipsburg #3 from American Martial Arts Academy to Hope Fire Co Rec Center
4. Precinct #91 Ferguson North Central from Stepping Stones Community Church to a temporary move to Centre Dance located at 2121 Sandy Drive State College

*Action: On a motion by Chris Fowler, seconded by Vicki Fong, the Board voted unanimously to approve the change of polling locations for items 1-4.*

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The next scheduled Board of Elections meeting is Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 2:00 PM at the Willowbank Building Room 146.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

XI. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

XII. ADJOURN

On a motion by Vicki Fong seconded by Chris Fowler, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Good  
Executive Office Supervisor