



BOARD OF ELECTIONS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 1:00 P.M.

Willowbank Office Building
420 Holmes Street, Room 146
Bellefonte, PA 16823

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Centre County Board of Elections was convened at 1:00 PM by Chair of the Board of Elections Commissioner Steven Dershem.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

In attendance were Commissioner Chair Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray, Director of Elections Joyce McKinley, Elections Coordinator Jodi Nedd and Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith.

County personnel present included Nick Barger and Chad Joyce.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Jodi Nedd provided an update on new equipment for the Presidential Primary.

- i. Julie Lutz in the Financial Management is getting prices for a letter opener to open mail in and absentee ballot envelopes.
- ii. Joyce McKinley has requested a quote from Election Systems & Software for a jogger. This shakes the envelopes to settle the contents to the bottom so they are not damaged by the letter opener.

B. Election Board Training Sessions

The election boards at Elmcroft and Foxdale have both provided notice that they are not available due to concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic. Jodi has contacted the Oaks and is awaiting their response. Commissioner Dershem also noted that students may not be available.

The Board discussed training options for new election officials. Chief Information Records Office Chad Joyce suggested providing a virtual training using BlueJeans. For returning election officials, Jodi can distribute new manuals highlighting important points and changes. Following Governor Wolf's order to avoid groups of ten or more, for new individuals she would be able to offer one on one training.

The County is waiting for direction from Governor Wolf and the Department of State to see if the April 28 Primary will be postponed to a later date. Commissioner Pipe suggested cancelling in person trainings and moving to virtual training. There may be training videos available from ES&S. Commissioner Higgins asked Chad to verify if it is possible to confirm attendance through BlueJeans for virtual trainings. It was the consensus of the Board to cancel the upcoming poll worker trainings.

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i. March 24, 25, 26 and 31 - CANCELLED

ii. April 1 and 2 - CANCELLED

C. Change of Polling Location

On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to change Precinct 41 College Township North from Houserville United Methodist Church to C3 Sports Indoor Complex, 200 Ellis Place, State College.

IV. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, April 13, 2020

Last day to REGISTER before the primary.

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot.

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots. Must be received by 8PM.

V. 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:

Natalie Smith
Executive Office Supervisor