



BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES

Tuesday, August 11, 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 1:02 PM by Chair of the Board of Elections, Commissioner Steven Dershem.

In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray, Solicitor Betsy Dupuis, Director of Elections Joyce McKinley Elections Coordinator Jodi Nedd, Voter Registration Latisha Stefanko and Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith.

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 Tuesday, August 4 and Thursday, August 6.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Election – November 3, 2020

i. Mail House

Yesterday, the Board participated in a call with Midwest representative Todd Mullen. Latisha explained that the call went well and Midwest seem to be a very viable company. Allegheny County contracted with them in the past and was very satisfied. There was a glitch in the Primary, but that was due to the Sure System. As a result, it was recommended that smaller batch files be sent to avoid similar issues. There was also an issue with the volume of ballots from Allegheny County. This however was a direct result of limited lead time. Allegheny County attempted to handle the volume for distribution up until two weeks before the election at which point they contracted with Midwest.

Commissioner Pipe watched a video on the Midwest website and was very impressed. They estimate that a large number of the requests will be received in the first batch. The County processed nearly 20,000 mail in and absentee ballot requests for the Primary and that took weeks, Midwest is able to turn the same number around in a matter of days. Requests that are

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received by 5 PM on Tuesday, October 27 would be processed and in the mail by Thursday. Commissioner Pipe asked if the county can pick up and deliver the last batch of ballots to Altoona for mailing instead of Pittsburgh.

Midwest is a COSTARS vendor so this service does not have to be put out to bid. Commissioner Pipe asked if there are any stipulations in the contract with William Penn Printing. Latisha said there is not a minimum number for printing or a volume discount.

For the mailing permit, the County will prepay for postage and funds will be deducted from our account as used. A refund will be issued following the election for the remaining account balance.

On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to enter into a contract with Midwest Presort Mailing Services, Inc.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Commissioner Dershem asked if the Election Office has had any conversation with Lambert Hall in case the Department of State does not permit the official count to take place outside of the County Seat.

Solicitor Betsy Dupuis said the statute is pretty clear and unless it is the county's only option she recommend staying within the county seat. Commissioner Pipe read from Act 12 of 2020 which created a new term called pre-canvas in Section 102. The word "pre-canvass" shall mean the inspection and opening of all envelopes containing official absentee ballots or mail-in ballots, the removal of such ballots from the envelopes and the counting, computing and tallying of the votes reflected on the ballots. The term does not include the recording or publishing of the votes reflected on the ballots. The Board will wait for further clarification from the Department of State.

- B. Campaign Finance Reports for Commissioner Candidate Pat Romano. Mr. Romano and his treasurer are both elected officials. If the fines are not paid than the reports will not be considered filed. Neither of these individuals will be able to run for office. Mr. Romano has previously filed campaign finance reports as required for his position as township supervisor. He has also received multiple notices from the Election Office. It was the consensus of the Board to name both the candidate and the treasurer in the suit.

VII. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, October 19, 2020

Last day to REGISTER before the November election.

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

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

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IV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 1:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Natalie Smith
Executive Office Supervisor