



BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEETING

September 8, 2020

Courthouse
2nd Floor, Commissioners Hearing Room
Carlisle, PA

Minutes

Present: Commissioner Eichelberger, Commissioner Foschi, Commissioner DiFilippo; Stacy M. Snyder, Deputy Chief Clerk; Tamie Hershey, Office Manager; Jennifer Crum, Administrative Specialist; Bethany Salzarulo, Bureau of Elections; Samantha Krepps, Communications; Jennifer Hipp, Assistant Solicitor

Present by Zoom: Mark Adams, IMTO; Lisa Budwig, Thomas Fink, Tim McCarthy, Jos Osborne, Jo Bitzer, Kathleen Keadon, Liz Reilly

Call to Order: Commissioner Eichelberger called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Commissioner Eichelberger, Foschi, and DiFilippo were present.

Public Comment: Lisa Budwig thanked Elections for keeping the public up to date on ballot applications, timelines, and status of the process.

Liz Reilly thanked the Election staff for all their efforts in the election process.

Jo Bitzer questioned what early voting means and whether Cumberland County is participating.

Thomas Fink questioned whether a ballot would be counted if the mail-in ballot were not placed in the internal secrecy envelope.

Tim McCarthy thanked everyone for the information on accessibility for the visually impaired for the upcoming election and hopes things go better.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Foschi made a motion to approve the minutes of August 10, 2020. Commissioner DiFilippo seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Polling Place Updates/Approvals

Bethany provided an update on temporary and permanent polling place moves. Bethany is suggesting that with temporary moves the voters receive a post card and with the permanent moves the voters receive a new Voter ID Card.

Commissioner Jean Foschi made a motion to authorize Bethany Salzarulo and the Election staff to send post cards to registered voters in the Camp Hill 5, Carlisle 4-1, Carlisle 5, East Penn 1, 3, 8, 10, Lower Allen 6, and Upper Allen 7, alerting those voters of the temporary relocation of their polling place for the November election and directing Bethany's staff to send new ID to all registered voters to the Carlisle 3-2 and Lemoyne 3 precinct, alerting them of the permanent relocation of their polling place. Commissioner DiFilippo seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Updates and Procedures

Bethany provided an update regarding the high numbers of voter registrations and mail-in ballots. Election staff began processing these at the beginning of August. Act 77 changes to the election code now state that absentee or mail-in ballots are not to be processed until 50 days prior to the election, which would be September 14, 2020, unless a county chooses to do so sooner. Bethany stated we have chosen to begin earlier than this required date.

Anyone who has applied for a ballot or who applied by the beginning of October will receive their ballots in the first group to be mailed. The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is October 27th. Bethany mentioned that as of today, the ballot has not been certified by the Department of State, but they plan on certifying the ballot by the end of the week regardless of the court case.

Green Party Candidate Litigation

The State has dropped two of the court cases against two of the green party candidates, but not the presidential candidate, which is still ongoing. The Department of State is planning to certify the ballot whether or not the case has been resolved. If the judge decides any candidate should be removed from the ballot, the state recommends any votes cast on ballots with these individuals listed be counted as if they were write-in votes. If the state certifies the ballot this week, Bethany will be asking the Board of Election for approval to begin the process of printing ballots.

Commissioner DiFilippo made a motion that if the Election office receives the certification from the Department of State as to the ballot for the November 3, 2020 general election, a request for the Boards approval to continue with the process which specifically includes coordinating with the printer, to print the ballots so the ballots can be mailed in the first group of mailings in early October with this Board knowing that the Department of State would issue a certification despite there being pending and unresolved litigation involving whether a green party candidate name would appear on the general election ballot for the candidacy for president. Commissioner Foschi seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Discussion ensued regarding different scenarios of the Judge's decision.

Department of State Paying for Postage for Returned Ballots

The return ballot envelopes will have a State business reply with the account billed directly to them.

Surrendering Ballot

Bethany outlined a change for the November election regarding surrendering ballots. If a voter wishes to vote by machine after applying for and receiving a mail-in or absentee ballot, the ballot can be surrendered at the precinct so long as the ballot and all other materials are turned in. The voter will be able to sign the poll book and vote by machine after signing a declaration. If the ballot and balloting materials are not surrendered the voter must vote provisionally or return the completed ballot to the Bureau of Elections

Naked Ballots

Bethany reported we have always counted these ballots and we will follow the guidance provided by the Department of State. It is expected these ballots will be addressed by the courts. She indicated that, as of the meeting date, these ballots will be counted.

Drop Boxes

The County does not have drop boxes but voters can hand deliver ballots to the election office Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Discussion ensued regarding guidance and security from the State, of drop boxes. It was suggested that the Solicitor draft a letter to the Department of State prior to September 18th regarding the County not using drop boxes.

Commissioner Foschi made a motion to direct the Assistant Solicitor to write a letter to the Department of State regarding the Board of Elections decision of no drop boxes. Commissioner DiFilippo seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Canvassing Ballots

Bethany addressed the Board regarding pre-canvassing, which may begin at 7:00 a.m. on November 3, 2020. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Foschi made a motion to approve authorizing pre-canvassing to begin at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 General Election. Commissioner DiFilippo seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Accessibility of Ballot Return Sites

The Department of State is developing an online portal to provide assistance to voters with a disability so voting by mail is accessible for all voters. It should be ready for the November election.

Masks in Polling Places

Voters will not be asked to leave the polling place if they choose not to wear a mask. Signs will be posted reminding everyone to social distance and asking voters to wear a mask.

Passive Electioneering

Bethany addressed political apparel and slate cards by pointing out we have no written policy and if we did have one we could not prevent someone from voting. . Discussion ensued regarding proper training for these instances. The Board suggested a written statement to address to the poll workers during the welcome and oath at training day.

Commissioner Foschi made a motion to direct Assistant Solicitor Jennifer Hipp to write a statement for the Board of Elections. Commissioner DiFilippo seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Report of Executive Session: Commissioner Eichelberger reported there was an executive session held on August 10, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m. Re: Potential Litigation

Request for Executive Session: Commissioner Eichelberger requested an executive session Re Litigation and Security.

Other Business: Bethany mentioned there is paperwork for the Chairman to sign.

There is a press release from the Department of State warning voters about robocalls sharing misinformation. Specifically voters are being told that if a voter votes by mail, personal information will be shared with law enforcement and other agencies.

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner DiFilippo made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Crum
Administrative Specialist