

Luzerne County Board of Elections
Minutes 1/22/2020

Members: Peter Ouellette
Keith Gould
Anne Davies
Audrey Serniak

Meeting called to order by Peter Oulette

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment:

Walter Griffith advised the Board that no vote had been taken on the process to used to select the new chairman and the change of meeting dates. Also, there was no public list of applicants for the post of chairman.

Motion was made by Peter Ouellette and seconded by Anne Davies to amend the minutes. A vote on the meeting date changes are necessary. Unanimously approved.

Solicitor had nothing to report.

Board of Elections Report:

Peter Ouellette outlined the process for Chair selection using the same procedure used to choose the first chair. There were four applicants. Two did not meet charter requirements or withdrew.

The interviews would be public with candidates present, one at a time. Candidates would be asked the same questions. The public would not be allowed questions. The Board will then meet in executive session to discuss. There can be no voting in session. Voting will take place in public. Each candidate nominated will receive a vote. Candidate selected will be sworn in and assume the Chair at the next meeting. If no one is selected, choice reverts to process outlined under the Charter, Section 8.04I.

Public interviews of two candidates for Chair, John Newman and Jose Adames, were conducted.

Board withdrew for the executive session. Upon their return, Peter Ouellette, called the public meeting back to order and announced the Board had discussed nominating and voting processes in the executive session. He then called for nominations.

Anne Davies nominated Jose Adames, Keith Gould seconded.
Audrey Serniak nominated John Newman, there was no second.
Jose Adames was voted in as Chair, unanimously.

Election Bureau Report:

Five machines and precinct scanners have been delivered. Removal of old equipment began 1/22/20 and will be completed 1/23/20.

Keith Gould and Peter Ouellette asked about training and online information regarding new machines and voting changes. It was suggested that Board members be trained on the new machines and be apprised of any information regarding the new voting procedures. Peter Ouellette called out to the public for help at the polls. There is a county voter taskforce to impliment the new machines and changes. The Bureau will be posting information online for the public to review.

Anne Davies will not be seeking another term on the Board. The seat, which must be held by a Republican, will be made by Council from the eligibility list.

Anne reminded everyone that voting is easy whether done by machine or by paper ballot. It looks easy but a lot of work goes into having a successful election. She expressed her appreciation to everyone involved with county elections, from the warehouse workers, to the poll workers, to the people responsible for gettiing in the results, and to Mary Beth, who does it all. Luzerne County is unique. The voters should educate themselves because it really is easy.

Meeting was adjourned.