

LUZERNE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AND REGISTRATIONS MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES MARCH 24, 2021

Call to order 5PM

Romilda Crocamo advised to have the Pledge and then Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call-Kathy Roth, Richard Nardone, Missy Thomas, Audrey Serniak present

Approval of Agenda-Romilda Crocamo advised to amend and adopt the agenda; there were no changes to the agenda

Motion to adopt made by Richard Nardone and seconded by Missy Thomas

Approved unanimously

Reorganization

Vice Chair Motion to appoint Missy Thomas made by Richard Nardone and seconded by Audrey Serniak; there were no other nominations; motion to close nominations made by Richard Nardone, seconded by Audrey Serniak

Roll call vote: Kathy yes, Richard yes, Missy abstain, Audrey yes

(Missy Thomas now chairs the meeting)

Secretary Floor opened to nominations

Motion made to appoint Kathy Roth; she refused nomination (Richard said he's bad at taking notes)

Motion to elect Audrey Serniak made by Richard Nardone and seconded by Kathy Thomas motion to close nomination made by Missy Roth and seconded by Kathy Thomas roll call vote Kathy yes, Richard yes, Audrey yes, Missy yes

Clerk With Dave Parsnik's recommendation a motion was made to appoint Eryn Harvey motion made by Richard Nardone and seconded by Audrey Serniak; nominations closed; roll call Kathy yes, Richard yes, Audrey yes, Missy yes

Minutes of February 24, 2021

Since there are no minutes of the February meeting, Romilda Crocamo suggested the Board approve a transcript of the audio of that meeting. The Board was advised the transcription was made by a certified court reporter

A made to approve by Audrey Serniak and seconded by Missy Thomas

Roll call vote Kathy abstain, Richard yes Audrey yes Missy yes

Public Comment (4 minutes)

Denise Williams, Kingston Twp-Welcomed the new Board, thanked them for volunteering, hope for this new beginning in how meetings are lead. Hoped for a new beginning for county council members to cease their meddling. Charter states that council members can't interfere or interject in meetings. Hoped Board would choose a Chair who would not allow shenanigans to start up again. Hoped new Board members will dedicate themselves to nonpartisan elections and serve all Luzerne County citizens..

Solicitor's Report

Mike Butera advised five challenges to election petitions. Three were upheld and two were dismissed. Whether the District Attorney position will be on the general election ballot is still to be determined.

Romilda Crocamo, Paula Radick, and Mike Butera welcomed the new Board members and offered their assistance.

Board members have received Title 25 and the Sunshine Act.

Motion to accept the report made by Kathy Roth, seconded by Richard Nardone, approved unanimously

Bureau of Elections Report

Dave Parsnik report that approximately 15,000 mail-in ballot applications have been processed to date and that the Bureau is up to date with applications. Polling places should be finalized by April 2nd; there are a few places that they are still negotiating with. Training schedules for poll workers are being set-up and judges of elections finalized. The ballot is being developed. Mr. Parsnik requested Board members contact him to arrange for their credentials and Eryn Harvey for signatures. Training will be opened to Board members.

Motion to accept the report made by Kathy Roth, seconded by Audrey Serniak, approved unanimously

Board of Elections Report-none at this time

Discussion Regarding Selecting the Chair

There are 3 applications for Chair. Office of Law offered the opportunity to advertise again which was accepted. The 3 applications will also be considered. The Chair must be named by the Board within 60 days of the vacancy or any resident can petition the Court of Common Pleas. Audrey suggested it would be better for the Board to select the Chair and not have it go to the Court and it would be a good idea to advertise. It was agreed to advertise the Chair to unanimously. Previous interview questions and procedure will be sent to the current Board for review and suggestions.

Next Meeting-March 31, 2021

Motion was made by Richard Nardone and seconded by Kathy Roth to hold the next meeting on March 31, 2021; it passed unanimously.

The Board discussed whether or not to hold the meeting in person or virtually. Audrey Serniak suggested virtual would be better due to continuing Covid restrictions. Richard Nardone and Kathy Roth stated a preference for in person meetings. Richard also suggested the possibility of holding a hybrid in person/virtual meeting. Romilda Crocamo and Dave Parsnik advised the Board that the Office of Law would have to check to see if a hybrid meeting is possible and would also need to determine if a large enough space would be available for in person meetings. Dave Parsnik will reach out to IT to see if they are able to do a hybrid meeting. The Board agreed to hold the next meeting virtually on March 31, 2021.

There was a voice vote to hold the next meeting virtually; it was unanimous

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by Richard Nardone, seconded by Kathy Roth, all were in favor

Adjourned 5:50PM; Board went into executive session