

LUZERNE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AND REGISTRATIONS MEETING
MINUTES APRIL 14,2021

Call to order 5:01 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda: No changes, Motion to accept Richard Nardone, 2nd Kathy Roth; accepted

Minutes

March 31, 2021 Change made to reflect we will all go to in-person meetings as soon as possible; Motion to accept Kathy Roth 2nd Richard Nardone; accepted

April 7, 2021 Motion to accept Richard Nardone 2nd Kathy Roth; accepted

Public Comment (4 minutes)

Claudia Glennan, Salem Township-She lives in the far reaches of the county and would like a hybrid option for public meetings. That way when we go face-to-face she will still be able to participate.

Richard Nardone-Wanted to know what conditions have to occur and who decides when ok to go in-person? Suggested we go hybrid ASAP since there is no perfect safety.

Romilda Crocamo advised that as long as CDC and state guidelines are observed we can approve in-person meetings. We need space for the Board, staff, at least one solicitor, the public.

Eryn Harvey advised that we can use the Council room but a dry run has to be performed first. Romilda Crocamo will check with Mauro di Mauro and IT.

Solicitor's Report

Mike Butera had nothing new to report.

Romilda Crocamo announced that there were three candidates, all qualified, for the Chair position but were unable to serve due to county employment or public office. The applicants were Peter Bard, Cindy Malkemes, and Jared O'Donnell.

Richard Nardone requested a status report on the Inquiry Committee recommendations.

Romilda Crocamo said that the County Manager had divided the tasks across departments. The Office of Law was looking at ballot security and life status of voters. They will report their findings to the County Manager in the next 10 days. She will check her notes; there is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

Motion to accept report Richard Nardone 2nd Kathy Roth; accepted

Bureau of Elections Report

Eryn Harvey reported that they were finalizing polling places and proofing the ballot.

The Bureau has ordered 3 drop boxes for the upcoming election to be placed at Pittston City Hall, Hazleton City Hall, and Nanticoke City Hall. They will be inside and bolted down to prevent tampering. Richard Nardone asked how the locations were chosen. Eryn Harvey said she believed that they were the largest cities. Missy Thomas asked about security monitoring to prevent one person putting in multiple ballots; Eryn will get those details for us.

Audrey Serniak asked that 2 people retrieve the ballots. The Office of Law's recommendation is that two authorized people be used when ballots are moved. Audrey Serniak asked if this would mean the post offices would not be needed for ballot drop boxes. Mike Butera explained that we are discussing 2 different things, drop boxes and mail-in ballots (post office segregates the ballots and the county transports them to the Bureau). He felt that the post office arrangement would still be needed later in the process because the mail is still slow. The locations were chosen because they are the largest cities; Kingston does have the largest population, but is close to the Penn Place drop box. Richard Nardone asked that the reasoning behind such decisions be documented.

Eryn Harvey mentioned that the deadline for receiving ballots is firm-8 PM on Election Day. There will not be a mail-in extension.

Motion to accept the three drop boxes at stated locations was made by Richard Nardone 2nd Kathy Roth, unanimously accepted.

Board of Elections Report

Audrey Serniak advised on the status of the Board's Face Book page. She advised that there is no formal guidelines in place and that the Board should think about adopting one. The most pressing issue was adding another person to administer the page. Missy Thomas agreed to be added; Richard Nardone and Kathy Roth declined. Romilda Crocamo informed the Board that the page was not County sanctioned and that we posted at our own individual risk.

Audrey Serniak asked if we would announce the names of the current applicants for chair and was told that would happen at our next meeting.

Motion to accept the report by Kathy Roth 2nd Richard Nardone; accepted

Other Business

Richard Nardone requested we have a section added to the agenda for five minutes open discussion among Board members. All agreed.

Richard Nardone asked who vetted the Chair applications and if references were checked. Romilda Crocamo said the Office of Law checked for conflicts with the Charter. Richard Nardone said he could check references and dictate a report. Kathy Roth said she could type it up. Audrey Serniak asked if it was advisable for the applications to go to HR. Romilda

Crocamo said that it would be wise for the Board to do their own investigating. HR does not review any

other board applications and we shouldn't blur the line between county employees and county board members.

Next Meeting-April 21, 2021 5 PM, Special Meeting to Interview for the Chair

Motion to Adjourn Kathy Roth 2nd Richard Nardone; accepted

Adjourned 5:48 PM