

LUZERNE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AND REGISTRATION MEETING
MINUTES JULY 14, 2021

CALL TO ORDER 5:01 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE

ROLL CALL

Kathy Roth here, Audrey Serniak here, Missy Thomas absent, Richard Nardone here,
Denise Williams here

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion Rick Nardone, 2nd Audrey Serniak, unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENTS (4 minutes)

Walter Griffith-wanted to know if the dates for completing tasks set out for the Bureau were mandated; people have been trying to get the financial reports up for a long time and this is very important; regarding Election IQ we should have a contract to use and it should be put up to bid first

Claudia Glennan, Salem Twp-will defer her comments on drop boxes; she is for them

MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from June 16, 2021 Rick Nardone 2nd Kathy Roth, unanimous

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

First-Office of Law was to review addition to website Board overview; Vito DeLuca said OK to post

Motion to post Denise Williams 2nd Audrey Serniak, unanimous

Second-the Board will have to vote on the length of the DA's term; it will need to be on the ballot for November; need a decision by September 13, 2021

There is a difference of opinion as to whether the new law requires a new 4 year term or a completion of the current term; Vito DeLuca advised holding off until the attorney County Council hires has given their opinion; after further discussion, Rick Nardone suggested there was no need for a decision today and the Board agreed.

Third-Status on complaints from the primary-Mike Butera reported that he spoke with the DA's office and they are not yet releasing that information due to the ongoing investigation; he will follow up

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS REPORT

Bob Morgan advised the Board regarding the directives:

First, the complaint procedure had been formalized;

Second, the financial reports were posted June 12, 2021 with a better format and going forward filings would be made available as quickly as possible.

Third, the Bureau had arranged focus groups, 36 people had volunteered, mostly Judges of Elections, new and experienced.

The Bureau was working on the other directives, including training and communications.

Board members requested regular updates on complaints be made in a timely manner. Vito DeLuca advised that written complaints are public record; anyone can request to see them and the Board is within their authority to see them.

Bob Morgan advised that only financial reports for the local races filed with the Bureau would be posted; state wide races are available on the state website; there is link to that information.

Bob Morgan and Eryn Harvey felt that although an email or mail survey can be done, the focus groups would result in a better response.

Rick Nardone advised that he had backed-off using a third party vendor for the website as he thinks the county IT department can handle any changes.

Denise Williams thanked Bob Morgan and Eryn Harvey for all the work they are putting into accomplishing the directives.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS REPORT

Audrey Serniak advised that the Board's Face Book page has been shut down.

Drop box results (roughly)-Hazleton 190 Nanticoke 350 Pittston 700 Penn Place 2000 Total 3200 ballots

Discussion that drop boxes are a good alternative to deliver the ballots but if we do them they should be done right; we need better, more secure boxes and the money to buy them; geographically located-N, S, E, W and central locations (Pittston, Back Mountain, Mountain Top, Penn Place?) Must adhere to state guidelines with video surveillance in municipal buildings if possible. Mail in voting is here to stay; drop boxes could promote voting.

Bob Morgan will look into bigger, heavier boxes. About 20% of the mail in ballots came in by drop boxes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (4 minutes)

No further public comments

NEXT MEETING

August 11, 2021 at 5 PM. It will be in person with a hybrid set up located in the Council Chamber at the County Courthouse.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Kathy Roth 2nd Rick Nardone, unanimous

ADJOURNED 6:30 PM