



**Board Meeting
6-26-2017**

Attending:

Inajo Davis Chappell, Chairwoman
Jeff Hastings, Member
David J. Wondolowski, Member
Robert S. Frost, Member
Pat McDonald, Director
Anthony W. Perlatti, Deputy Director
Brendan Doyle, Assistant Prosecutor

Linda D. Walker, Clerk to the Board
Anthony Alto, Clerk to the Board

The Board voted unanimously to begin the meeting at 9:35 p.m. via roll call vote:

Chairwoman Chappell: Yes
Board Member Wondolowski: Yes
Board Member Hastings: Yes
Board Member Frost: Yes

Agenda Item 1: Acknowledgement of Secretary of State Directive 2017-08, Instructions Regarding the Review of Petitions (Marsy's Law)

Director Pat McDonald stated staff received the Ohio Crime Victim's Bill of Rights. Staff is starting the signature verifications today. Staff has all the petitions that will be included in the September election, other than Cleveland. They are expecting anywhere from 35,000 to 95,000 signatures before the filing deadline. Candidates will have an additional five (5) days to collect signatures if they do not have enough.

The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge Secretary of State Directive 2017-08, Instructions Regarding the Review of Petitions (Marsy's Law).

Agenda Item 2: Approval of meeting minutes from the May 15, 2017 and May 23, 2017 board meetings

The Board voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes from the May 15, 2017 and May 23, 2017 board meetings.

Agenda Item 3: Non-citizen voter challenges

Director McDonald stated that staff received a list from the Ohio Secretary of State of 44 voters in Cuyahoga County that were found not to be citizens. This was found by cross-referencing voter data with data from the Ohio Board of Motor Vehicles. A list of these voters was also sent to the Cuyahoga County

Prosecutor's Office. Of those voters, eight (8) had voted in the 2016 General Election. A letter was sent to all 44 voters stating that they had up to 10 days to file a cancellation form with the Board. Director McDonald requested that the Board approve sending out a notice of hearing to those voters who have not returned their cancellation form at which their right to vote will be challenged.

Assistant Prosecutor Brendan Doyle stated that the individuals have already received two (2) notifications from the Secretary of State. Board staff sent a notice to the non-citizens stating that they have been identified as a non-citizen. This will be the fourth correspondence sent to the voter. None have been returned as undeliverable.

Agenda Item 4: Acknowledgement of Candidate and Issue Withdrawals

The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge the candidates and issues as presented in the agenda.

Agenda Item 5: Acknowledgement of death in office

The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge the death in office as presented in the agenda.

Candidate and Petition Services Manager Brent Lawler stated that John Matson, candidate for Seven Hills Council Ward 3 should not be certified to the September 12, 2017 Primary election. The office requires 50 valid signatures. Mr. Matson submitted 60 signatures. On one (1) part-petition the circulator stated 19 signatures, however there were 20, thus making the part petition invalid. Only 40 signatures remained which are 10 signatures below the required minimum of 50. Mr. Matson was asked to withdraw, but a withdrawal as not submitted.

Lawler stated that Kari Oatman, candidate for Mayor of East Cleveland, should not be certified. The office requires 55 valid signatures. Ms. Oatman submitted 61. Of those 61 signatures only 33 were valid. She told Lawler that she was robbed and gunpoint and had to handover all her signatures on one part petition. Ms. Oatman was advised to withdraw, however a withdrawal has not been submitted.

The Board voted unanimously not to certify John W. Matson and Kari Oatman to the September 12, 2017 Primary election.

Agenda Item 6: Certification of Candidates to the September 12, 2017 Primary election

The Board voted unanimously to certify the candidates to the September 12, 2017 Primary Election as presented in the agenda.

Agenda Item 7: Certification of Candidates to the November 7, 2017 General Election in lieu of the September 12, 2017 Primary Election

The Board voted unanimously to certify the candidates to the November 7, 2017 General Election in lieu of the September 12, 2017 Primary Election as reflected in the agenda.

Agenda Item 8: Certification of Independent Candidates to the November 7, 2017 General Election

The Board voted unanimously to certify the Independent Candidates to the November 7, 2017 General Election as reflected in the agenda.

Agenda Item 9: Approval of vouchers

Business Administration Manager Sean Webster stated that line item one (1) was purchased in December. It is only a partial supply. The first payment to Tenex is for 50% of the payment amount. The second payment should be in August or September. The voucher for Verizon will be a new charge moving forward. This is for the Hot Spots used for the electronic poll books. These charges will only occur during the month of the election. Staff just received a reimbursement from the State to pay for the electronic poll books. He also stated that some Hot Spot units will be used for two (2) months because they are used for training.

The Board unanimously voted to approve the vouchers as presented in the agenda.

Update on the Budget:

Webster stated that they are currently creating the budget for 2018 and 2019. Departments have already submitted their budget requests. A base budget should be ready by July, and by August there should be a recommended budget to be reviewed by the Board.

Update on the Warehouse Construction:

The construction at the Warehouse is ongoing. There will be a new entrance on the south side of the building. Construction is on schedule.

Update on Purchase of New Voting Equipment:

Director McDonald stated that staff met with county council for a needs assessment for equipment. Staff looked at five (5) different vendors to get a quote for all new equipment. It would cost approximately 15 million dollars to purchase all new voting equipment in Cuyahoga County. This was submitted to the Secretary of State in the required time. Director McDonald stated that he will be working diligently with the State Legislature to ensure that the Board will not be penalized for being proactive and purchasing new equipment earlier.

Agenda Item 10: Authorization to mail the voter information guide to all active registered voters for the September 12, 2017 Primary Election and for the November 7, 2017 General Election

The Board voted unanimously to authorize to mail the voter information guide to all active registered voters for the September 12, 2017 Primary Election and for the November 7, 2017 General Election.

Update on Legislative Committee

Board Member Frost stated that at the Secretary of State conference the Legislative Committee met and discussed the budget and reimbursement. There was talk of legislation to eliminate unnecessary primaries. Senate Bill 21 would reduce the required number of poll workers from four (4) to two (2) in those precincts utilizing electronic poll books. Although it was not included in this budget, there is strong support to get it passed in this general assembly. Senate Bill 44 passed unanimously. It is a bill that would provide for local campaign finance reports to be filed online. House Bill 41 would allow in-person absentee voting to be similar to Election Day voting. If the voter does not have a photo ID they would vote absentee. There are two (2) new bills, House Bill 222 which would specify that a concealed carry ID is a valid ID, and House Bill 237 which would provide funds to ensure compliance for subdivisions that have territories in more than one (1) county.

Deputy Director Anthony Perlatti was added to the Legislative Committee.

Executive Session

The Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 10:09 a.m. via roll call vote to discuss personnel issues:

Chairwoman Chappell: Yes
Board Member Wondolowski: Yes
Board Member Frost: Yes
Board Member Hastings: Yes

The Board voted unanimously to exit executive session at 11:09 a.m. via roll call vote.

Chairwoman Chappell: Yes
Board Member Wondolowski: Yes
Board Member Frost: Yes
Board Member Hastings: Yes

Director McDonald stated that the Board recommends the approval of medical leave for David Hughes which extends David's original leave period as Mr. Hughes did not provide sufficient documentation authorizing his return to work.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the extension of medical leave for David Hughes.

Director McDonald stated that in January Claudia Merritt was given notice that due to the detrimental effect that her numerous requests for unpaid medical leave have had on the agency, they might not be willing to recommend approval of any future medical leave. Her ongoing frequent and intermittent absences combined with her critical and supervisory role as Human Resource Manager have placed an undue hardship on the agency. Therefore, staff does not recommend approval of Claudia Merritt's request for unpaid medical leave.

Board Member Hastings stated that the recommendation made by staff is reasonable and well thought out. Claudia Merritt's absences do cause an undue hardship on this agency. Staff has taken every effort to accommodate her situation, and so he supports the recommendation.

The Board unanimously voted not to approve Claudia Merritt's request for unpaid medical leave.

Director McDonald stated that staff recommends approval of tuition reimbursement to Keven Zaremba in the amount of \$851.78 for the Applied Business Program at Tri-C in accordance with the Tuition Reimbursement Program. He also stated that documentation is placed in recipients' personnel files indicating that they did pass the class.

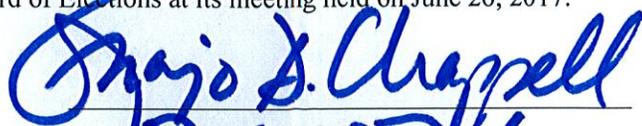
The Board voted unanimously to approve the tuition reimbursement to Kevin Zaremba in the amount of \$851.78.

Director McDonald stated that staff recommends approval of the reporting structure adjustments of five full time employees from candidate and petition services to the Business Administration Department for reasons that will improve operational efficiencies.

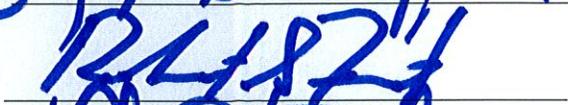
The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:14 a.m.

Certification: I have reviewed the above minutes and certify that they are an accurate summary of the actions taken by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at its meeting held on June 26, 2017.

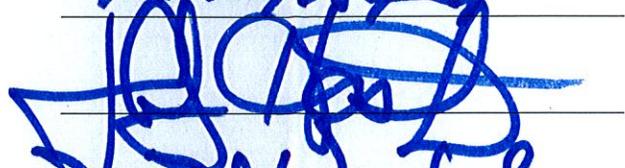
Inajo Davis Chappell, Chairwoman



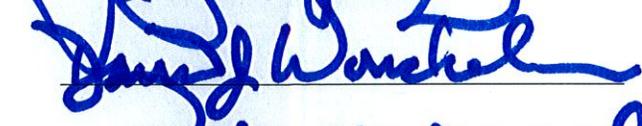
Robert S. Frost, Member



Jeff Hastings, Member



David J. Wondolowski, Member



Pat McDonald, Director

