



**Board Meeting
10-23-2019**

Attending:

Jeff Hastings, Chairman
Inajo Davis Chappell, Member
Robert S. Frost, Member
David J. Wondolowski, Member
Anthony W. Perlatti, Director
Shantiel Soeder, Deputy Director
Kelli Perk, Assistant Prosecutor, Cuyahoga County
Mark R. Musson, Assistant Prosecutor, Cuyahoga County

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

The Board Meeting began at 9:32 am.

Chairman Hastings noted that all board members were present.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of minutes from the August 27, September 10, September 20, and September 26, 2019 board meetings

Chairman Hastings asked that the minutes from the September 10, 2019 meeting be changed to reflect a motion to excuse board member Wondolowski which passed unanimously.

Board Member Wondolowski asked that the minutes from the September 26, 2019 meeting be changed to reflect that he was present.

Board Member Frost asked that the minutes from the September 26, 2019 more clearly reflect Board Member Chappell's recusal and the vote of the board.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the August 27, September 10, September 20, and September 26, 2019 board meetings pending the amendments.

Agenda Item 2: Acknowledgement of Secretary of State Directive 2019-23 and Advisory 2019-09

The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge Secretary of State Directives 2019-23, and Advisory 2019-09.

Director Perlatti stated that staff has already complied with these directives.

Agenda Item 4: General Election Update

Director Perlatti stated that the election is about two (2) weeks away. Early in person voting hours will change to 8:00 am until 7:00 pm. Absentee staff has processed over 62,000 applications. Staff is working with the local Republican Party to recruit Republicans to provide political balance on Election Day. The moving company has begun delivering equipment to polling locations. There will be a small press conference scheduled for next week.

Board Member Chappell asked what the turnaround time is for absentee ballots. Director Perlatti responded that it will be somewhere between three (3) and six (6) days. Staff is currently scanning absentee ballots, but the counts are not being recorded yet.

Agenda Item 5: Acknowledgement of candidate withdrawals

The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge the candidate withdrawals as provided in the meeting materials.

Staff will send out notices to precincts where a candidate has withdrawn but their name still appears on the ballot.

Agenda Item 6: PEO Performance Review Report from the September 10, 2019 Primary Election

Election Officials Assistant Manager Peter James stated that the Election went well. There was one (1) personality issue which will be remedied by moving the worker to another location. The amount of no-shows was consistent with other elections of scale.

Board Member Chappell asked why some of the election officials did not sign the reports. Mr. James responded that it was likely the election officials felt rushed and omitted that part. Staff will focus on this during training for the next election. Twenty three percent of provisionals were handed out incorrectly, however none of them harmed the voter. This is another area the training will focus on for next election.

Chairman Hastings thanked Mr. James and the Election Officials Department.

Agenda Item 7: Authorization to pay 322 Voting Location Managers; 348 Voting Location Deputies; 3,391 PEOs; 150 Standby workers; and 100 workers for Practice Makes Perfect for an amount not-to-exceed \$750,861.90

The Board voted unanimously to authorize payment for poll workers in the amount not-to-exceed \$750,861.90.

Agenda Item 8: Approval of vouchers

The Board voted unanimously to approve the vouchers as provided in the meeting materials.

Agenda Item 9: Approval of personnel agenda

The Board voted unanimously to approve the Leave Donation for Mary Robinson, and the Reclassification for Cory Milne.

Director Perlatti asked the Board not to vote on the Reassignment and will ask them to consider it at an upcoming board meeting.

New Business:

New Logo Update:

Deputy Director Soeder reviewed the history of the former Board of Election's logos. She explained that most other counties have a similar color scheme of red, white, and blue. Current opinion is to use a blue and white color scheme incorporating the word VOTE with the "O" being the state of Ohio.

Board Member Frost asked that we use a neutral color scheme or use red, white, and blue in order to mitigate any partisan appearance.

Chairman Hastings asked that we inquire into other Boards of Elections' selection process, and stated that staff has done an excellent job.

Board Member Chappell stated that she prefers a red, white, and blue scheme.

March 17, 2020 Primary Election Update:

Director Perlatti stated that staff has reached out to call polling locations. Most location issues have been resolved.

Status of Voter Notify

Director Perlatti stated that Voter Notify is being discontinued because the vendor cannot efficiently meet the new Secretary of State security standards. Robo calls will be sent out in place of Voter Notify. Chairman Hastings and Board Member Chappell stated that they hope to bring back the program at some time, and asked staff to look into finding another vendor.

Adjustment to Absentee Voting Operations

Director Perlatti stated that in house voting operations are now being overseen by the Candidate and Petition Services Department for practical purposes. The Ballot Department now oversees absentee voting.

Budget Update

Director Perlatti stated that he and Deputy Director Soeder testified at County Council. They explained to the Council the new initiatives and how it will affect the budget.

Accreditation of PEO Training Classes

Election Officials Department Manager Henry Curtis stated that in order to qualify for a Continuing Legal Education Program they must submit the required application 60 days prior to the start of the training cycle for the March 2020 Primary Election. They will start with an initial group of 20 people, who will constitute one (1) class. They will identify the areas where they will assign these workers. They are working with the Cleveland Municipal Bar Association to ensure compliance with Secretary of State regulations and the Ohio Supreme Court rules.

Ohio Association of Election Officials Update:

Board Member Frost stated that voter registration legislation has been introduced. The emended bill will be introduced to fix some potential bugs. The Legislation is also discussing having multiple early voting locations. Federal legislation will be introduced to require all states to improve cyber security.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion on the Antonio Stitt hearing

The transcript of proceedings from the protest hearings are incorporated by reference into the minutes and are available for review upon request.

Board Member Wondolowski moved to refer this matter concerning Antonio Stitt and Danita Love to the Prosecuting Attorney. Chairwoman Chappell seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously to refer the matter to the Prosecuting Attorney.

Public Comment:

Lillian Moore

Ms. Moore spoke about misuse of funds in the village of Highland Hills.

Adele Eisner

Ms. Eisner spoke about transparency.

Charles Turner

Mr. Turner spoke about additional information on the protest against Georgine Welo.

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 11:32 am.

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 October 23, 2019.

Jeff Hastings, Chairman

Inajo Davis Chappell, Member

Robert S. Frost, Member

David J. Wondolowski, Member

Anthony Perlatti, Director
