

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 06-01-2021**

Chairman Bill Freytag called the meeting to order at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave. in the lower-level classroom at 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, June 1st, 2021. The Roll Call was as follows: Bill Freytag, present, Jonathon C. Elgin, present, Lydia Reid, absent, and Megan Whatman, present. Also present at this meeting were Director Matt Finfgeld and Deputy Director Jane Zimmermann, and guest Betty Preston.

Chairman Freytag asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 05-17-2021 through 05-20-2021 special meeting. Mr. Elgin made the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Whatman and passed by voice vote 3-0. Director Finfgeld next reviewed the bills for the month of May in the amount of \$31,814.48 from the General Fund, and two pay periods totaling \$35,914.03. A motion to approve the bills as presented was made by Ms. Whatman, seconded by Mr. Elgin and passed unanimously by voice vote 3-0. Chairman Freytag next asked if there was any public comment, and recognized guest Betty Preston. Ms. Preston stated she is very interested in the process, and she was there to observe the meeting and she has more faith in people than she does machines. Chairman Freytag thanked her for coming and apologized for not recognizing her at the last meeting.

There were no items of old business to come before the board.

Chairman Freytag stated the first order of business was to discuss and decide on the Electronic Pollbook purchase. Mr. Elgin made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss confidential proposals pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22. The motion was seconded by Ms. Whatman, and the roll call vote was at 3:07 p.m. and was as follows; Mr. Freytag, yes, Mr. Elgin, yes, Ms. Whatman, yes. Directors Finfgeld and Zimmermann remained in executive session. At 3:37 p.m. the board re-entered open session with a motion made by member Mr. Elgin, and seconded by Ms. Whatman for a 3-0 vote.

Mr. Elgin made a motion that after much consideration the board ranked the Electronic Pollbook proposals as Tenex-1, and KnowInk-2, and authorized the Director’s to enter into negotiations with Tenex to draft a contract to be reviewed by the County Prosecutor, then brought back to the board for purchase. In coming to these rankings, the Board considered all factors listed in the RFP, including but not limited to: the ease of setup of the Electronic Pollbook by pollworkers, security, timeliness, connectivity to the polls on Election Day, responsiveness, and reputation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Whatman and passed unanimously by voice vote 3-0.

The next item of business was the compensation of a public employee. Mr. Elgin made a motion to enter executive session to discuss the compensation of a public employee pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22. The motion was seconded by Ms. Whatman, and the roll call vote was at 3:40 p.m. and was as follows; Mr. Freytag, yes, Mr. Elgin, yes, Ms. Whatman, yes. Directors Finfgeld and Zimmermann remained in executive session. At 3:53 p.m. the board re-entered open session with a motion made by member Ms. Whatman, and seconded by Mr. Elgin for a 3-0 vote.

Mr. Elgin made a motion to move Mr. Daniel O’Brien from the level of Election Specialist I to an Election Specialist IV at an hourly rate of \$21.00 an hour effective 06-10-2021. Mr. Elgin commended Mr. O’Brien for how he proved himself during this May Election especially with the unfortunate injury that happened the Sunday before election to Ms. Obenour. Mr. O’Brien has consistently demonstrated over the past year to diligently take on more and more responsibilities in an exemplary manner, and the level of Election Specialist IV reflects his duties. The motion was seconded by Ms. Whatman and passed unanimously by a 3-0 vote.

The next item of business Chairman Freytag asked Director Finfgeld if the pollworker evaluations were complete. Director Finfgeld distributed the pollworker evaluations and the most notable error was the back of the chain of custody not being signed by the Presiding Judge and Presiding Assistant. Deputy Director Zimmermann stated she and Mr. O’Brien were working on reworking the form so that signature would be on the front, that after a long day at the polls the pollworkers fill out the front and many just forget to flip it over and sign the back. Ms. Whatman made a motion to approve the evaluations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Elgin and passed unanimously by a 3-0 vote. Director Finfgeld thanked Election Specialist III Carrie Hill for her work on completing the evaluations.

Next on the agenda was discussion of Shelby 4A & Shelby 4B voting location. Deputy Director Zimmermann had been contacted by the Kehoe Center to see if we would need their facilities for Election Day. Director Finfgeld had a google map for all the board members showing the distance of 1.5 miles between the Kehoe Center and Awake Church as well as a map of both precincts. Mr. Elgin stated he received a call from a constituent from Shelby that would like to see it moved back to the Kehoe Center. Mr. Elgin stated he appreciates the feedback but he is concerned with which room we would be in if we were back at the Kehoe Center and what would happen if Covid numbers were to spike again in the fall. It was also noted by the members that Awake Church is .5 mile outside the city limits and that Chairman Freytag and Director Finfgeld have looked on previous occasions to at other locations in Shelby and couldn’t secure another location. Mr. Elgin made a motion to keep Shelby 4A & Shelby 4B at the Awake Church. The motion was seconded by Ms. Whatman and passed unanimously 3-0.

The next item on the agenda was informational only, Director Finfgeld went over the Mid-year budget for 2022 that was completed by Directors Finfgeld and Zimmermann in the amount of \$1,006,560.00 for the general fund, and \$130,000.00 for the voting equipment fund and submitted to the Commissioners last week.

The last item on the agenda was Ohio Association of Election Officials Northeast Regional meeting at the Atwood Yacht Club in Carroll County on July, 9<sup>th</sup>. The Directors will attend the regional meeting and report back to the board.

With no further business to come before the board, Mr. Elgin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Whatman, and passed by voice vote 3-0. Chairman Freytag adjourned the meeting at 4:21 P.M.

Date approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Bill Freytag, Chairman

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Jonathon C. Elgin

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Lydia J. Reid

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Megan Whatman

Attest:

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Matt Finfgeld

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Jane Zimmermann