

## RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 11-16-2020 through 11-18-2020

Chairman Bill Freytag called the meeting to order in the Lower Level Classroom at the Longview Center at 3:00 P.M. on Monday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The Roll Call was as follows: Bill Freytag, present, Joseph H. Mudra, present, Lydia Reid, present, and Karen Browning, present. Also present at this meeting were Director Paulette Hankins and Deputy Director Jane Zimmermann, and guest Amy Valentine.

Chairman Freytag asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 10-06-2020 through 11-03-2020 Regular meeting. Mr. Mudra made the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed by voice vote 4-0. Director Hankins next stated that there were no bills to approve since the last meeting.

There was nothing introduced under old business.

Under new business, Director Hankins reviewed the Provisional summary with the Board Members. After review and discussion, Mr. Mudra made a motion to rule as valid the 1352 Provisionals. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0. Mr. Mudra then made a motion to invalidate 157 Provisionals due to various reasons, including missing signatures, not registered, or other reasons as listed on the summary report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0. Mr. Mudra next made a motion to validate the 41 absentees which were received within the 10 days after November 3<sup>rd</sup> but postmarked by November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

The next order of business was the review of the Pre-Official Public Test as performed by Democrat Debbie Obenour, Election Specialist V/IT Support Tech and Republican Election Specialist 1 Daniel O'Brien. Director Hankins explained the reports as follows: the first report was the zero report demonstrating that no totals were in the tabulating system computer. The next report showed the total test votes cast in Man 2-A precinct, which has no splits. The next report showed the total test votes cast in the Plymouth precinct which has 4 splits. The next report showed the total test votes cast in Wash-D precinct, which has 4 splits. The next report was a summary of all 3 precincts, and the final report was a zero report showing that the tabulation computer had been set back to all zeros so that no test votes would be in the system when we start the Official. A motion to approve the results of the test of the Pre-Official Public Test was made by Mr. Mudra. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

Chairman Freytag called for the next item of business on the agenda which was the review of the Poll Worker Evaluation forms. Director Hankins stated that the Evaluations were not completed yet. Discussion followed concerning the payment of the hazardous duty bonus pay of \$50.00 to Jane McGinty, VLM at Lincoln Heights Church on Election Day. Deputy Director Zimmermann explained to the board members that Mrs. McGinty had refused to process a curbside voter with COVID on Election Day. It was noted that the Rover had to come to the polling location to vote the person, and that Mrs. McGinty had called 911 on the voter for creating a disturbance. It was also noted that Mrs. McGinty then sent the Poll worker, who had assisted the Rover in voting the person, home for the rest of the shift. Deputy Director Zimmermann stated that she had checked with the County Prosecutor who verified that the VLM had failed to uphold her oath of office, and that the board would be justified in withholding all or just the hazardous duty portion of her Poll Worker pay. After further discussion, Mr. Mudra made a motion to withhold the \$50.00 hazardous duty pay bonus from Mrs. Jane McGinty's check for working the polls. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

Under other business, Chairman Freytag recognized the guest as Amy Valentine. Ms. Valentine explained that her reason for coming to the board meeting was to dispute her voting record. She stated that when Trump made the statement for people to check to make sure their vote was recorded, she went online and checked her voting history. Ms. Valentine stated that she knew she hadn't voted in the 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016 General Elections and the 2015 Primary Elections. She also stated that the signatures provided as documentation from the Directors were not her signatures. Ms. Valentine expounded on her explanation that she knew she hadn't voted during those years because she was having some stressful family issues. She stated that her children had been dealing with some drug issues, and that she herself had some of the same issues, although not the hard drugs. Ms. Valentine added that she thought that either someone in the board office or the poll workers had signed her name and voted in her place. Chairman Freytag explained that a valid ID would have to be presented to the poll workers, and that the signatures were actually signed at the polling place on the electronic poll book. He added that poll workers of each party would have been present and witnessed her signatures. It was the consensus of the board members that they were in agreement with the letter and documentation which had been sent to Ms. Valentine stating the signatures appeared to be consistent with her signatures on her voter registration records. Director Hankins added that there was no further documentation available in the board's records. Ms. Valentine stated that she would be contacting the Prosecutor's office. Since she stated that she would be contacting the Prosecutor, the board took no action on the matter.

The next item under other business was the details of the mandated audit to be conducted after the Election is certified. Mr. Mudra made a motion to order the staff to conduct a regular audit, by Vote Center, to audit the Presidential race and Supreme Court race of Kennedy and O'Donnell as chosen by the Secretary of State's office, and the local race of Juvenile Court Judge between McKinley and Harper, and to start the audit at 8:30 a.m. on Monday November 23<sup>rd</sup> until finished. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

Next under other business, Joseph H. Mudra stated that due to the COVID surge, he would like for the office to go back on the administrative leave schedule and have the staff alternate the days actually in the office. Director Hankins stated that it would probably need to be after the audit was finalized, so they would plan on starting it after Thanksgiving, which would be the week of November 30<sup>th</sup>. A motion to this effect was offered by Mr. Mudra, seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

The last item under other business was Chairman Freytag's statement agreeing with the Letter to the Editor written by Board Member Joseph H. Mudra and published in the Mansfield News Journal on Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Freytag retrieved the letter on his phone and read it to the board, as follows; **Election workers deserve praise** – "I cannot tell you how much work and effort goes into conducting a flawless election process. Much thanks to Paulette Hankins, (D) Director of the Richland County Board of Elections, Deputy Director Jane Zimmermann (R), and their excellent staff. Especially of note are the dedicated poll workers who work a long day for relatively no pay to assure that voters are treated respectfully. This was by far the most difficult election in memory and they pulled it off without significant issue. They are true patriots and exceptional public servants. Their efforts are not adequately recognized. Thank you. *Joseph H. Mudra, Richland County Board of Elections member*". Chairman Freytag made a motion directing the Directors to include the letter in the next PEO Newsletter. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Reid and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

Mr. Mudra made a motion to recess the meeting until Wednesday November 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0. With no further business to come before the board, Chairman Freytag recessed the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Chairman Bill Freytag re-convened the meeting at 10:02 a.m. on Wednesday November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in the Lower Level Classroom at the Richland County Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Avenue in Mansfield. The Roll Call was as follows: Bill Freytag, present, Joseph H. Mudra, present, Lydia Reid, excused, and Karen Browning, present. Also present at this meeting were Director Paulette Hankins and Deputy Director Jane Zimmermann, and guest Betty Preston.

The first item on the agenda was to review/approve any adjustments and remakes necessary during the Official count. Director Hankins informed the members that after opening the Provisionals that had been validated at the last meeting, it was determined that 3 of those voters had cast their vote in the incorrect Vote Center and Precinct. Mr. Mudra made a motion to amend the number of valid Provisionals to 1349 and the number of invalid to 160. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0. Director Hankins explained that 143 ballots needed to be remade for various reasons – mostly due to the incorrect ballot being issued, as follows; Man 1-B, 3 ballots, Man 1-C, 2 ballots, Man 1-D, 2 ballots, Man 1-E, 1 ballot, Man 2-A, 14 ballots, Man 2-B, 2 ballots, Man 2-C, 14 ballots, Man 2-D, 1 ballot, Man 3-B, 1 ballot, Man 3-D, 3 ballots, Man 3-E, 1 ballot, Man 4-A, 1 ballot, Man 4-C, 2 ballots, Man 4-E, 1 ballot, Man 6-A, 7 ballots, Man 6-B, 1 ballot, Man 6-D, 3 ballots, Man 6-E, 3 ballots, Shl 1-A, 8 ballots, Shl 1-B, 1 ballot, Shl 2-A, 3 ballots, Shl 2-B, 3 ballots, Shl 3-B, 1 ballot, Butler, 1 ballot, Cass, 8 ballots, Jack-A, 1 ballot, Jack-B, 2 ballots, Jeff-A, 1 ballot, Mad-A, 1 ballot, Mad-D, 1 ballot, Mad-E, 1 ballot, Mad-G, 1 ballot, Mad-I, 2 ballots, Mad-O, 1 ballot, Miff-A, 1 ballot, Miff-C, 2 ballots, Miff-D, 2 ballots, Miff-E, 1 ballot, Mon-B, 2 ballots, Ont 2-A, 1 ballot, Ont 3-A, 2 ballots, Ont 4-A, 1 ballot, Spfld-B, 1 ballot, Spfld-C, 1 ballot, Lex-B, 2 ballots, Troy-B, 1 ballot, Wash-A, 1 ballot, Wash-B, 1 ballot, Wash-F, 1 ballot, Worth-A, 2 ballots. Mr. Mudra made a motion to approve the 123 remakes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed by voice vote 3-0.

The Official results were distributed and reviewed by the board members. Chairman Freytag asked for a motion. Mr. Mudra made a motion to approve the official results showing 60,336 votes cast at a turnout percentage rate of 72.90%, and to sign the necessary report forms. Mrs. Browning seconded the motion which passed by voice vote 3-0.

Chairman Freytag next asked for the Post-Official Public Test as performed by Democrat Debbie Obenour, Election Specialist V/IT Support Tech and Republican Election Specialist 1 Daniel O'Brien. Director Hankins explained the reports as follows: the first report was the zero report demonstrating that no totals were in the tabulating system computer. The next report showed the total test votes cast in Man 2-A precinct, which has no splits. The next report showed the total test votes cast in the Plymouth precinct which has 4 splits. The next report showed the total test votes cast in Wash-D precinct, which has 4 splits. The next report was a summary of all 3 precincts, and the final report was a zero report showing that the tabulation computer had been set back to all zeros so that no test votes would be in the system. A motion to approve the results of the Post-Official Public Test was made by Mr. Mudra. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed by voice vote 3-0.

Under other business, Deputy Director Jane Zimmermann distributed and reviewed with the board members the schedule of 2021 board meeting dates. Also, under other business, Director Hankins informed the board that at the time the 2021 salary increases were reviewed and approved by the board, staff member Diana Naumoff had been planning to leave employment after the November Election, although she had not submitted it in writing. Ms. Hankins stated that Mrs. Naumoff had since informed her that she had changed her mind and would be staying as a permanent part-time employee. Director Hankins asked the board members to consider increasing her pay for 2021 by 3%, or at least by the .25 an hour given to other the other seasonal part-time employees. Discussion followed, with Chairman Freytag and Mr. Mudra stating that they had no problem in granting her the 3% increase which the other permanent employees received. Mr. Mudra made a motion to give Diana Naumoff a 3% increase in pay for the year 2021. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed by voice vote 3-0.

Director Freytag acknowledged the guest in attendance, who introduced herself as Betty Preston. Ms. Preston stated that she did not wish to address the board, but only was present to observe.

Mr. Mudra made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed by voice vote 3-0. With no further business to come before the board, Chairman Freytag adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

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

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Bill Freytag

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Joseph H. Mudra

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Lydia J. Reid

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Karen J. Browning

Attest:

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Paulette Hankins

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Jane Zimmermann