

The regular monthly meeting of the Erie County Board of Elections was called to order by Chairman Thomas Ferrell on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9:08 a.m.

Roll Call:	(D) Thomas M. Ferrell, Chairman	Present
	(D) William J. Monaghan, Member	Present
	(R) Nicholas J. Smith, Member	Present
	(R) Jeffrey N. Krabill, Member	Present

Guests in attendance: Sue Brown from Prosecutor's Office, Rachel Mullen from SOS Office, and Amy Grubbe

Motion to approve the minutes from the December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Krabill. Motion carried.

Motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Krabill, seconded by Mr. Monaghan. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda was the review of petitions for the May 2022 Primary Election. Adrienne James, Deputy Director, stated that she gave the board members a list of all potential candidates. Both Richard Jeffrey, who is running for county auditor, and Tygh Tone, who is running for Common Pleas Judge, General Division, have enough valid signatures. All the other names on the list are people who completed paperwork to run for county central committee. Ms. James also noted that Mr. Monaghan and Mr. Krabill completed paperwork to run for central committee.

Motion to certify the candidates on the list except for Mr. Monaghan and Mr. Krabill was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Monaghan. Motion carried. The list of candidates approved is as follows:

- Richard Jeffrey, Republican, County Auditor
- Tygh M. Tone, Democrat, Judge of Court of Common Pleas, General Division, FTC 1/1/2023
- Terry Griffith, Democrat, County Central Committee, Hur A
- Frances M. Leeper, Democrat, County Central Committee, Hur D
- Dennis S. Horan, Democrat, County Central Committee, Hur E
- Linda L. Miller, Democrat, County Central Committee, Hur F
- Margaret Ann Murray, Democrat, County Central Committee, San A
- Nettie J. Cox, Democrat, County Central Committee, San C
- Robert Ritzler, Democrat, County Central Committee, San E
- Barbara J. Farrar, Democrat, County Central Committee, San F
- John T. Murray, Democrat, County Central Committee, San G
- Darlene L. Walk, Democrat, County Central Committee, San H
- Alan D. Griffith, Democrat, County Central Committee, San I
- Amy Catherine Beatty, Democrat, County Central Committee, San J
- MaryAnn Groot, Democrat, County Central Committee, San L
- Luvada S. Wilson, Democrat, County Central Committee, San N
- Brian P. Francis, Democrat, County Central Committee, San O
- Susan M. Zeier, Democrat, County Central Committee, San P
- John Roger Skelley Watts, Democrat, County Central Committee, Ver 2-B
- Matthew R. McClester, Democrat, County Central Committee, Ber Vill
- Leslie D. Korenko, Democrat, County Central Committee, KI Vill
- Susan M. Brouse, Democrat, County Central Committee, Mil Vill
- Diane M. Hahler Johnson, Democrat, County Central Committee, Ber Twp #1
- Jeffrey J. Whitacre, Democrat, County Central Committee, Ber Twp #2
- Susan L. Finnegan, Democrat, County Central Committee, Flo Twp #2
- Amy F. Grubbe, Democrat, County Central Committee, Hur Twp #2
- Amy J. Thomas, Democrat, County Central Committee, Mar Twp #1
- Linda L. Miller-Moore, Democrat, County Central Committee, Mar Twp #2

- Paulette J. Biglin, Democrat, County Central Committee, Mar Twp #4
- Debra L. Nickoloff, Democrat, County Central Committee, Mil Twp #1
- Paul A. Sigsworth, Democrat, County Central Committee, Mil Twp #2
- Timothy J. Dunlap, Democrat, County Central Committee, Ox Twp
- Dean S. Lucal, Democrat, County Central Committee, Per Twp #3
- Pamela S. Ferrell, Democrat, County Central Committee, Per Twp #6
- Robert L. McCarthy, Democrat, County Central Committee, Per Twp #7
- Connie J. Porter, Democrat, County Central Committee, Per Twp #9
- Chris J. Gasteier, Democrat, County Central Committee, Per Twp #10
- Paul E. Meisel III, Democrat, County Central Committee, Ver Twp #1
- Leona S. Phillips, Democrat, County Central Committee, Ver Twp #3
- Grant L. Harding, Democrat, County Central Committee, Ver Twp #5
- Theresa Gavarone, Republican, County Central Committee, Hur A
- Jennifer Ferback, Republican, County Central Committee, Hur B
- John C. Adams, Republican, County Central Committee, Hur C
- Kate Vargo, Republican, County Central Committee, San D
- Jean T.S. Feick, Republican, County Central Committee, San H
- Lindsey M. Lavey, Republican, County Central Committee, San O
- Joseph Hayberger, Republican, County Central Committee, San P
- Patricia A. Parsons, Republican, County Central Committee, Ver 2-A
- Karen Camella, Republican, County Central Committee, BV Vill
- Judi A. Charlton, Republican, County Central Committee, Cast Vill
- Zachary Rospert, Republican, County Central Committee, Mil Vill
- Brandon C. Kamm, Republican, County Central Committee, Ber Twp #1
- Donny Jennings, Republican, County Central Committee, Ber Twp #2
- Mathew Old, Republican, County Central Committee, Ber Twp #2
- Tiffini McNeely, Republican, County Central Committee, Flo Twp #1
- Ryan Hathaway, Republican, County Central Committee, Hur Twp #1
- Douglas James Swearingen Jr., Republican, County Central Committee, Hur Twp #2
- Robin S. Goretzki, Republican, County Central Committee, Hur Twp #3
- Cassandra D. Cooper, Republican, County Central Committee, Mar Twp #1
- Clayton Sosa, Republican, County Central Committee, Mar Twp #2
- Gary Smith, Republican, County Central Committee, Mar Twp #3
- Gary J. Brunetti, Republican, County Central Committee, Mil Twp #2
- Michael G. Parker, Republican, County Central Committee, Ox Twp
- Melissa Pelletier, Republican, County Central Committee, Ox Twp
- Alexis Lewis, Republican, County Central Committee, Per Twp #2
- Nancy C. McKeen, Republican, County Central Committee, Per Twp #6
- Francis A. Corder, Republican, County Central Committee, Per Twp #9
- Eliza Link, Republican, County Central Committee, Per Twp #10
- Larry Deem, Republican, County Central Committee, Ver Twp #2

Motion to certify Mr. Monaghan's paperwork for central committee was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Krabill. Motion carried. Mr. Monaghan did not vote.

Motion to certify Mr. Krabill's paperwork for central committee was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried. Mr. Krabill did not vote.

Motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing compensation of employees with legal counsel under ORC 121.22(G)(1) was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Smith. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Ferrell- yes  
 Mr. Monaghan- yes  
 Mr. Smith- yes  
 Mr. Krabill- yes

**Motion carried. Board went into executive session at 9:13 a.m.**

**Motion to leave executive session and return to regular session was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Krabill. Motion carried. Board resumed regular session at 10:05 a.m.**

**Ms. James stated that there were two issues to certify, a tax levy for Margaretta Township and a tax levy for Castalia Village. Ms. James also stated that the office reviewed the paperwork turned in by the subdivisions. Motion to certify the issues was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Monaghan. A roll call vote was taken.**

**Mr. Ferrell- yes  
Mr. Monaghan- yes  
Mr. Smith- yes  
Mr. Krabill- yes.**

**Motion carried.**

**Next, Ms. James stated that Dennis Schreiner turned in paperwork to run for Republican Central Committee in Groton Township. However, Mr. Schreiner is a registered Democrat, because he voted a Democratic ballot in the 2020 primary. Ms. Salyers and Ms. James consulted with the SOS legal department, who informed them that Mr. Schreiner cannot run. They cited the relevant portions of the Elections Officials Manual and the O.R.C. In addition, Jason Hinnners at the Prosecutor's Office composed an email which explained why Mr. Schreiner cannot run for this office. Mr. Smith asked if no one runs for Groton Township Republican Central Committee, and Mr. Schreiner votes a Republican ballot, if he could be appointed after the election. Ms. James stated yes.**

**Motion to reject Mr. Schreiner's paperwork and to inform him that if he votes Republican in this primary, he could later be appointed, was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Monaghan. Motion carried.**

**Next on the agenda was polling location updates. Ms. James reminded the board members of the challenges we faced at the Sandusky Cultural Center polling location last November. She stated that she started an email conversation with Dennis Muratori, the assistant superintendent, and that he seems ready and willing to work with us.**

**Lori Salyers, Director, then gave updates on the Ohio Veterans Home and Vermilion. She stated that she spoke with Naomi Twine of the OVH, and they would like to continue to do absentee voting. Ms. Salyers stated she would make up a packet of absentee ballot applications and give it to Ms. Twine to disperse at the OVH. Mr. Smith asked if the residents wanted to vote in the basement of the county building on Election Day, if they could, and Ms. Salyers responded yes. Mr. Smith also stated that Ms. Twine did a great job last year.**

**Ms. Salyers then stated that she spoke with James Forthofer, the mayor of Vermilion, about possibly moving the Vermilion Field House Polling Location. Mr. Forthofer informed her that there was nowhere else for the city to place us. He stated that the new firehouse would not work, because that would possibly interfere with rescue services. Therefore, we are going to have to stay at the Field House.**

**Eliza Link, clerk, commented that last November, we had trouble with the heat at the Field House, and it didn't turn on until 3 or 4 p.m. Mr. Smith stated we would need to talk to the superintendent about that. Mr. Krabill asked if we had one of their custodians on our payroll on Election Day. Ms. James confirmed that we did. Ms. Salyers stated that we received some complaints about the field house being difficult to navigate during school drop off and pick up times.**

Next, Ms. James spoke about the possibility of poll workers switching parties, and asked the board members how they would like us to handle that. Mr. Smith stated that it's his understanding that it's the staff members' discretion which poll workers they hire. He stated to go back to the workers who have worked for you for a long time. He also stated to consider if you have ever had any problems with these poll workers, and to consider if you have enough poll workers. Mr. Ferrell stated as long as we strive to keep parity between the R's and D's, that's the main thing. Mr. Krabill added that people may want to switch parties, but they do not officially switch until they have voted in the primary. He stated that if they vote early and you know what their new party is, use that as your guiding light.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of pay for poll workers. Kimberly Barnum, clerk, spoke on the possibility of raising poll worker training pay for back up poll workers. Currently, we pay our poll workers a training rate, but then, if they quit, that rate drops. For example, a VLM earns \$30 for training, but if they quit, that drops down to \$15. Currently we pay our back up poll workers the same amount as our quitters, but Ms. Barnum was wondering if we could increase the backups' training pay to the full amount. She noted that even if they do not work, they are still on call up to the morning of Election Day. She also noted that backups must be willing to work anywhere in the county.

Mr. Smith asked about how much we are talking. Ms. Barnum replied 20 backups, with an increase of \$15 for each one, so that would be \$300. Mr. Smith replied that he thinks that is in our budget. Mr. Monaghan stated increasing the training pay of back up workers was "good insurance." Mr. Smith agreed. Motion to pay the back up poll workers the full training amount was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Monaghan. Motion carried. Mr. Smith thanked Ms. Barnum for bringing this pay discrepancy to the attention of the board.

Next, Ms. Link spoke about pay for ride-backs. She mentioned that on Election Night, we have a bipartisan team bring back all the supplies and ballots. However, the ride-backs are hard to recruit because there is no pay incentive. The VLM who is with the ride-back is paid extra, though. Ms. Link suggested offering a \$10 incentive for the ride-backs. We have 38 locations and 38 ride-backs, so that would be an extra \$380. Ms. Salyers mentioned that in Lorain County, they pay their ride-backs an extra \$60.

Mr. Monaghan suggested adjusting ride-back pay based on mileage. Mr. Ferrell stated he thinks the increased pay for ride-backs is a good idea for keeping poll workers. Mr. Smith then made a motion to increase the ride-back pay by \$10. He stated that Mr. Monaghan's idea to adjust ride-back pay by miles would be too complicated. Mr. Monaghan seconded Mr. Smith's motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Link then stated, before we move on, she just wanted to clarify something regarding training pay. The increased training pay would not be for poll workers who trained and then quit. The board members stated they understood.

Next, Ms. James stated we needed to reschedule the February board meeting. Currently we have it scheduled for February 25<sup>th</sup>; however, according to the SOS Election Calendar, boards must certify petitions and issues by February 14<sup>th</sup>. After some discussion, the board members decided to move the meeting to Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. Ms. James stated she would revise the schedule and update the website.

Next on the agenda was "any other matters to come before the board." Ms. Grubbe stated she had some questions about the report that Mr. Krabill recently wrote. She wanted to know if Mr. Krabill wrote the report on behalf of the board, and what was in it. Mr. Krabill stated some people approached him who thought the 2020 election was somehow altered or changed, so he looked into it. Ms. Grubbe asked if the board approved it. Mr. Smith responded that Mr. Krabill wrote the report on his own. It was not presented to the board for adoption or approval. Ms. Grubbe then stated she would like a copy of the report. Mr. Krabill stated he would email it to her.

**Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried.  
Board adjourned at 10:25 a.m.**

**Lori J. Salyers, Director**

**Attest:**

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**Thomas M. Ferrell, Chairman**