

**The regular monthly meeting of the Erie County Board of Elections was called to order by Chairman Ferrell at 8:02 a.m. on Friday, January 31, 2020.**

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

**Guests in attendance: Gerhard Gross, Peter Daniel, Edward Widman, Melissa Tomoro, Hank Solowiej.**

**The meeting started with a discussion regarding the budget. Mr. Widman stated that we have meet three times to discuss the budget with the personal circumstances that have arisen. Mr. Widman stated we first met back in December.**

**Mr. Widman stated the summary page on the top of the packet is what the commissioners typically see. Mr. Widman stated we will be a little over if our staffing stays in place because the increase two years ago may be catching up to us, along with Jen's termination payout.**

**Mr. Ferrell stated that with the state mandating so many office hours, our staff could not possibly follow the "use it or lose it" comp time policy followed by the commissioners' staff. It was suggested that we may consider putting a cap on comp time and when it should be used.**

**Mr. Ferrell stated that he realized they are basing the 2020 budget on the last presidential election in 2016. However, the 2016 budget does not have anything in it dealing with cyber security. That is all we hear about anymore. Mr. Ferrell stated that Homeland Security has been in and made an assessment. That will be expensive. The local fire department has also been in to do an assessment and we are good there. Our issue is with handicap accessibility. The public has every right to enter our back room and see the ballots counted and we do have visitors, especially during recounts. Also, when Homeland Security came out for the physical security assessments, we had problems with direct access to the voter registration cards being right over the counter.**

**We have received a quote from Accurate Business Supplies for some of the physical security, such as cameras for the public area for a video file.**

**Mr. Ferrell thought it was about ten thousand dollars in effect to the Homeland Security's recommendations.**

**Mr. Krabill inquired on what line of the budget that would go on and Mr. Ferrell stated he would put it on the capital line of the budget. Mr. Ferrell stated he did not know the cost of making the office handicap accessible.**

**Mr. Monaghan stated the office would need something similar to what was put in downtown at the Treasurer's Office and the Title Office.**

**Mr. Krabill stated he understands that the physical security is something that we need to do. However, the cyber security is his main concern. We need to do an assessment of what is the best way to handle cyber security. We have very high level IT issues that we need to address. Should we consider creating a position that could be shared between counties? What is the cost effective way for the county to proceed? We are spending an incredible sum of money on an hourly basis handling things as we are now.**

**Mr. Ferrell and Mr. Krabill stated we have used the fifty thousand dollars we received from the state.**

**Mr. Ferrell stated we have talked with Tim Jonovich from the county IT department regarding perhaps splitting time with other departments throughout the county.**

**Mr. Krabill stated the cyber security is not going to end with the Board of Elections. It will eventually affect the auditor's office, the treasurer's office, etc.**

**Mr. Ferrell stated that putting some rough numbers together, it would be around thirty grand for the handicap accessibility improvements. It would probably be around another ten thousand for the accurate business physical security improvements.**

**Mr. Ferrell stated that with everything included, we are looking at about forty grand on our capital budget line.**

**Mr. Ferrell stated that he did not think using the 2016 presidential budget was relevant due to there being no cyber security directive back then.**

**Mr. Monaghan also stated with a new director and deputy director that we may need to address some contractual services and training that will be needed.**

**The two percent raises from 2018 were also addressed. Mr. Ferrell stated we receive less pay than some other counties. Mr. Ferrell stated we are here pleading our case for salaries because we cannot afford to make any other cuts.**

**Mr. Krabill had a question since this is his first budget process. What happens when there is a mandate of any department that results in necessary expenditures that are not in our budget?**

**Mr. Daniel stated that is exactly why in the commissioner's opinion, the state should be taking this over. It does not belong at the county level. You have to quantify how much it is.**

**Mr. Ferrell stated we would have those numbers for you before it is time to pass the budget. He feels our estimate may be a little high but not by that much, based on what we have to do.**

**Mr. Daniel stated what he has heard is the commissioners would like the cyber security work contracted out as opposed to hiring another county IT person.**

**Mr. Ferrell asked Mr. Daniel how much they have in the capital budget line for this year. Mr. Daniel stated they have no number at all yet.**

**It usually runs between a million and a million and a half. That is standard.**

**Mr. Widman stated they have made notes but like to get a general overview of all departments that are in the budget process before they start the process of what's in and what's out.**

**Mr. Ferrell stated we will get you guys some rock solid numbers.**

**Mr. Daniel stated it sounds reasonable with the numbers you stated, but what doesn't is the IT side of things. He is thinking that having someone who would come in for a couple of hours a day would probably cost around thirty thousand.**

**Mr. Ferrell stated we would get the hard numbers to Ed or Melissa.**

**Mr. Krabill inquired if there are any examples of counties sharing IT services around here. Mr. Daniel stated it is not a bad idea, but how often it really happens is rare. Social service type of things and smaller counties down south may use shared services.**

**Mr. Widman reminded the board an idea would be to contact our county insurance company.**

**Mr. Solowiej stated a copy of the homeland security assessment would be helpful.**

**Mr. Ferrell thanked everyone for coming in for the budget meeting.**

**Mr. Krabill inquired about who has dropped out of the race and what do we do if they are on our ballot. Ms. Ward stated we received an email from the SOS yesterday and withdrawn candidates will stay on the ballot because they withdrew too late.**

**Next, it was asked if we need to know anything about this email from Carrie Whitaker. Ms. Ward stated she just wanted to let the board know that no one should be affected with the few boundary changes that have been made.**

**Ms. Ward requested the board consider training from our Vendor TRIAD. She will get a new quote for training.**

**Mr. Ferrell stated that we should also put in the budget to go to REO classes before the next conference in June. Ms. Ward stated she had already spoken to Melissa Tomoro about that earlier in the week.**

**Kelley's Island poll workers have asked if the board would pay for flights for training classes if the ferry is not running. The board agreed that they would pay for flights if necessary.**

**Mr. Smith made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Mr. Monaghan. Motion carried.**

**Mr. Gross stated that we have a voter registration hearing in a few minutes. Did everyone look at the last transcript? You are entitled to ask questions.**

**Mr. Gross stated the legal issue is that the board decided years ago that the person is not a resident of Kelley's Island, so that becomes a binding precedent, so to speak. Therefore, the issue becomes what has changed since the last time. Otherwise, the decision that the board has made before is a binding legal decision since he did not challenge it in court. The previous decision is effective until the person presents changed circumstances.**

**Carol Matthews is a Republican but will be requesting a Democratic ballot for the primary. Can we use her as a Democratic poll worker? The board agreed that as long as she casts a Democratic ballot before the primary, she can work as a Democrat on voting day.**

**Do the loaders of the voting equipment the night before need to be declared? The board agreed that no, they do not need to be declared to move voting equipment.**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Krabill. Motion carried. Meetings was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.**

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**Lori Salyers, Director**

**Attest:**

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**Thomas M. Ferrell, Chairman**