

The pre-election meeting of the Erie County Board of Elections was called to order by Chairman Thomas Ferrell on Monday, February 27th, 2023 at 4:01 p.m.

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

Guests in attendance: Amy Grubbe

Adrienne James, Deputy Director, reviewed numbers for absentee voting. She stated that early voting ended today at 2:00 p.m. We had 793 people vote early, in office. We have mailed 302 ballots and received back 272, which means we have 30 outstanding. We had one hand-carry, and we have received that ballot back. We have had zero nursing home voters, and zero military and overseas voters. There are zero overvoted ballots for the board to review.

Mr. Monaghan made a motion to recess until tomorrow at 7:00 p.m., with Ms. Crescimano seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried.

On Tuesday, February 28th, Mr. Monaghan made a motion to reconvene, with Ms. Crescimano seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried. Board reconvened at 7:00 p.m. Rachel Ruffer from the Secretary of State's Office was present as a guest.

Ms. James stated there are still no overvoted absentee ballots for the board to review. She also reviewed the process they would follow once the polls close at 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Crescimano stated there is a budget meeting tomorrow at 10 a.m. with County Administrator Hank Solowiej and stated that Ms. James should attend. Ms. Crescimano will be present at the meeting as well.

Ms. James stated that today is the last day for Director Lori Salyers and she wants to thank her for her service. She stated that Ms. Salyers has done a really great job and has made the office a fun and relaxed place to work. She stated that full-timers, part-timers, and poll workers appreciate what Lori has done for us.

Ms. Salyers stated she could not have done it without the girls. She said we are a fantastic team and that we worked well together. Mr. Ferrell acknowledged that Ms. Salyers came in at a difficult time, while Mr. Monaghan stated that she didn't receive much training.

Ms. Ruffer presented Ms. Salyers a letter of commendation from Secretary of State Frank LaRose which congratulated her on her retirement and thanked her for her service to the voters of Erie County. Ms. Ruffer stated we recognize that Lori has worked under tremendously difficult circumstances on many fronts.

Ms. Salyers stated there were some things said during Friday's meeting that she wants to clarify. She stated she spoke with Tom Johnson, the fire chief in Margaretta Township. Mr. Johnson said he understood completely why we moved out of the township hall. Ms. Salyers also said that we discussed moving out of the Margaretta Township Hall at a board meeting in September and no one objected. She then said that it is one person in Margaretta who is a poll worker and stirring up trouble. Mr. Johnson said he is tired of dealing with this and he wants to put it to rest. Also, Margaretta Township did not spend \$5,000 to fix up the township hall for the Board of Elections. They spent \$40,000 to bring the building up to code because that is where they hold township meetings. Ms. Salyers then stated this is not the first time mistruths have been spoken about her and on her. Since this is her last meeting, she wants to straighten things out.

Ms. Crescimano asked if the poll worker in question is still working for us. Ms. Salyers stated she would recommend that she does not. She stated that the poll worker accused the pastor of the church where she was working of ripping up political signs and cursing at voters. Ms. Salyers called the other poll workers at the church, who said that was not true. Ms. Salyers stated that what the poll worker is doing is slanderous, and that could open us up to a lawsuit. She also stated that she knows the pastor of the church and that she is a sweet woman. Ms. Crescimano stated her concern is that we don't hire the poll worker again. Ms. Salyers stated she thinks that is a wise decision. Mr. Monaghan agreed.

Mr. Monaghan asked how it worked out moving the Sandusky A precinct. Ms. James stated we didn't hear any complaints. Ms. Salyers stated we did have a few poll pad issues today. When the precinct support person updated the pads with the isync drives, a message popped up saying we can use passports as IDs. However, we are not permitted to accept passports as ID until the next election. Ms. Salyers explained that we told our workers this in class.

Mr. Monaghan made a motion to recess, with Mr. Krabill seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried. The board recessed at 7:13 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., Ms. Salyers and Ms. James went outside to check the dropbox. They then scanned the rest of the absentee ballots, tabulated the absentee results, and uploaded the absentee results on the website. As the poll workers returned the memory sticks from the polling locations, Ms. Salyers and Ms. James read the results on the sticks and uploaded those on the website, too.

Mr. Monaghan made a motion to reconvene, with Mr. Krabill seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried. Board reconvened at 8:52 p.m.

Ms. James stated that the unofficial results are now in. There were 1,512 election day ballots cast and 1,080 absentee ballots cast for a total of 2,592 ballots. Turnout was 15.89 percent. There were 850 Yes votes and 1,741 No votes. The board members then signed the unofficial results page to scan and send to the SOS office.

Ms. Crescimano made a motion to adjourn, with Mr. Monaghan seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried. Board adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Adrienne G. James, Deputy Director

Attest:

Thomas M. Ferrell, Chairman