

The regular monthly meeting of the Erie County Board of Elections was called to order by Chairman Thomas Ferrell on Friday, March 11th, 2022 at 9:00 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: Amy Grubbe

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 11th meeting was made by Mr. Krabill, seconded by Mr. Monaghan. Motion carried.

Motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Krabill. Motion carried. Lori Salyers, Director, stated there was one Then and Now Certificate to sign for our annual fee for our I.T. department.

Motion to certify the petitions for candidates for State Representative, 89th District, 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. The two candidates certified were James R. Obergefell, Democrat, and Douglas James Swearingen Jr., Republican.

Motion to approve the name changes for both candidates was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Monaghan. Motion carried. James R. Obergefell will appear on the ballot as Jim Obergefell, and Douglas James Swearingen Jr. will appear on the ballot as D.J. Swearingen.

Next on the agenda was Polling Location Updates. Ms. Salyers stated that Agape Love Ministries in Perkins Township no longer wishes to host us, so we are trying to find an alternate location. We would like to use Ability Works across the street from Agape. Ms. Salyers spoke with someone there who said they would be happy to host us, but they may not be able to this election because of resurfacing their parking lot. Ability Works is supposed to contact us in mid-March to let us know for sure. Eliza Link, Clerk, stated that if we can't use Ability Works this election, we would like to use the Perkins Township Building.

Ms. Salyers stated she contacted the mayor of Vermilion about an alternate location for Vermilion Veterans Field House. However, the mayor informed her that there are no locations in Vermilion, so we will have to stay at the Field House. Ms. Salyers suggested the fire station, but the mayor stated that would interfere with business. Ms. Salyers stated we do not want to interfere with EMS services.

Mr. Smith commented that the Vermilion fire station does not handle EMS; they contract that out. He stated that we can't do anything about it this election, but in the future, we may want to have Sue Brown from the prosecutor's office reach out to Vermilion to remind them of facilities' obligations to serve as polling locations if they receive tax dollars.

Mr. Monaghan suggested the Vermilion Municipal Building, but Mr. Smith stated they have court on Tuesdays. Mr. Krabill suggested a banquet hall, while Mr. Smith suggested the Vermilion Boat Club. It may not be in the correct precinct, though. Mr. Smith stated he would like to look at a map of Vermilion to try to find a polling location.

Next on the agenda was Other Election Updates. The state has passed new maps, and the SOS office has instructed us to move forward. The western part of Erie County is in the 89th House and 2nd Senate District, while the eastern part of Erie County is in the 54th House and 13th Senate District. Ms. Salyers explained that the dividing line runs through the precinct Huron Township #1. She did some figuring with both google maps and the maps from the SOS office. Then, she contacted Mark Wroblewski at the Auditor's Office. Mr. Wroblewski provided her with maps, and they were the same as the ones Ms. Salyer's figured. However, Mr. Wroblewski made it clear that the Auditor's Office is not to be held responsible for placing people in the correct districts.

Ms. Salyers stated that in one instance, the dividing line runs right through someone's house. Part of the house is in the 89th District, while the other part of the house is in the 54th District. She is not sure what to do in this situation. Mr. Smith asked if we had received any guidance from the SOS office. Ms. Salyers stated that the SOS office said to work with your county auditor. Mr. Smith suggested contacting Sue Brown at the Prosecutor's Office for some legal guidance.

Ms. Salyers also stated that the SOS office would be giving us grant money for this upcoming election in the amount of \$87,441. We do not have to place the money in an interest-bearing account, and we do not have to receive quotes. The SOS office has told us what we can spend the money on, and this includes overtime wages. We must send the money back to the state by August 5.

Mr. Smith asked if there was a need to hire more part-timers. Ms. Salyers replied that we may bring in some part-timers to help us hire poll workers, which we can pay for with grant money. Mr. Smith then asked what would happen if there was a second primary. Ms. Salyers responded that she thinks the grant money is just for this primary.

Mr. Ferrell then asked if there were any other matters to come before the board. Ms. Grubbe stated she had several questions. Her first question was regarding military and overseas voters. Adrienne James, Deputy Director, stated that currently, we have one overseas voter who has requested an absentee ballot for this election. We recently received an email from the SOS office stating that the first batch of UOCAVA ballots do not have to be sent out by March 18, but they must be sent out by April 5. The email also stated that instead of having 10 days after the election for BOEs to receive UOCAVA ballots, they will have 20 days. This means that we may have to change the date of our official canvass and certification.

Ms. Grubbe then asked when candidates would be approved for district races. Ms. James stated that Monday, March 14th is the deadline for the most populous counties to certify to us.

Next, Ms. Grubbe asked about PEO assignments. Ms. Salyers stated we were working on it. Ms. Grubbe asked if we had her name down to work as a PEO. Ms. Salyers replied that there was an issue last election that they could talk about later, and that we probably would not be calling her to work again. Ms. Grubbe stated she would like to know about the issue on the record.

Ms. Salyers stated that she received a phone call from two workers who worked at Ms. Grubbe's location last election. According to them, a voter fed their ballot through the DS200, but the DS200 kicked the ballot out, saying there was an overvote. The clerk told the voter to go to the ballot judge to spoil their ballot and receive a new one. Ms. Grubbe, who was the ballot judge, told the voter that was not necessary. She informed the voter to bypass the warning on the DS200 and feed the ballot through. She stated that on Election Night, BOE staff would go through the ballots and remake the ballot that the voter overvoted. However, this is not true, so that person lost their vote on the race that they overvoted.

Ms. Grubbe then stated she would like to receive a copy of the maps from the auditor's office, plus the PEO assignments so far. Ms. Salyers and Ms. James stated they would email that information to her.

Next, Ms. Grubbe asked about the report that Mr. Krabill recently wrote, which debunked that there was any fraud or vote changing in Erie County for the November 2020 General Election. Ms. Grubbe remarked that the report does not indicate that it was not written on behalf of the Board of Elections. She wanted to know what the policy of such investigations by board members or staff is.

Mr. Ferrell stated that if the board was going to do an investigation, we would initiate it in a public meeting. Ms. Grubbe replied that this report should have come in front of the board, and that didn't happen. Mr. Smith stated that the report in question was an individual's work. It came from an individual board member exercising his right to do what he wants. Ms. Grubbe countered that this individual sits on the Board of Elections board, so there is a higher standard that should be met. Mr. Smith stated that he remembers Mr. Krabill talking about the report, and it wasn't a secret. Mr. Krabill also provided the report to Ms. Grubbe. It is what it is.

Mr. Krabill then asked if everyone had received a copy of the draft of his BOE salary survey. Mr. Monaghan stated that he had. Mr. Krabill stated that there was one question that Ms. James felt should be added, so he added it. Mr. Ferrell asked Mr. Krabill to state the question for the record. Mr. Krabill stated the additional question is, "Do your clerks all make the same salary, or is there a difference by experience/years?" Mr. Krabill stated he planned to email the survey to all the county boards, then compile the data in a spreadsheet and share it with the counties who participated.

Motion to go into executive session for personnel and security matters was made by Mr. Krabill, 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 9:36 a.m.

Motion to leave executive session and return to regular session was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried. Board returned to regular session at 10:19 a.m.

Ms. Salyers stated she had one more point to address. Our current ballot bags are very old, and some are falling apart. Ms. Salyers found some ballot bags that are on wheels, which would be good for our older poll workers. They can hold up to 150 pounds and 2,500 ballots. These new bags would be about \$195 each, but shipping would be free. Mr. Smith asked what the old bags look like. Ms. Salyers replied that they are just carrier bags with handles. Mr. Ferrell asked if we could use grant money from the state to pay for new bags. Ms. Salyers replied that she did not think so, but that she could ask. Mr. Smith stated he did not like the price and would like to keep researching until we find something cheaper. He also would like to know the lifespan of the new bags.

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

Lori J. Salyers, Director

Attest:

Thomas M. Ferrell, Chairman