

The official canvass meeting of the Erie County Board of Elections was called to order by Temporary Chairman Thomas Ferrell on Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call:	(D) Thomas M. Ferrell, Temporary Chairman	Present
	(D) William J. Monaghan, Member	Present
	(R) Lisa M. Crescimano, Member	Present
	(R) Nancy C. McKeen, Member	Present

Guests in attendance: Jason Hinnners from Erie County Prosecutor's Office, Rachel Ruffer from SOS office, Amy Grubbe, and Alex Jones

Adrienne James, Deputy Director, reviewed absentee ballots received after the election. She stated that we received three and all are eligible to be counted. The first two were sent in the same envelope which was postmarked on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The third one was for an individual who forgot to sign their original absentee ID envelope but returned their supplemental 11-s form on time. The board members took a few moments to review the ballots. Ms. Crescimano made a motion to count the ballots, with Mr. Monaghan seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried.

Eliza Link, Clerk, reviewed the 17 provisional ballots cast this election. She first reviewed the 11 provisional ballots eligible to be counted per the Elections Officials Manual. Two were name changes where the people did not update their name in time for the voter registration deadline and did not have proof of their name change. Four were address changes where the people did not change their address in time for the voter registration deadline. One was cast because the person requested an absentee ballot but voted at the polls on Election Day. They did not return their absentee ballot. Two had no valid ID at the polling location but provided the last four digits of their social security number on the provisional identification envelope. Two were registered in other counties, one in Cuyahoga and one in Franklin. Ms. Link corresponded with the other counties to confirm the people were registered there and did not vote there. The board members took a few moments to review these provisionals. Ms. Crescimano made a motion to count the 11 eligible provisional ballots, with Mr. Monaghan seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried.

Ms. Link then reviewed five provisional ballots not eligible to be counted per the EOM. These five voters were not registered to vote anywhere in the state of Ohio. Ms. Link stated she had Ms. James double-check this. However, by filling out the yellow provisional ID envelopes, these people will become registered in Erie County after this election. The board members took a few moments to review the envelopes. Ms. Crescimano made a motion to not count the ballots, with Mr. Monaghan seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried.

Ms. Link stated one provisional ballot is pending review and gave a synopsis of the situation. She stated a voter came in to vote early in our office. The voter is registered in Perkins Township and stated that he lives in Perkins Township, but wanted to vote in Sandusky because he owns property there. Ms. Link and Ms. James showed the voter Chapter 4, Page 75 of the EOM which reviews residency requirements for voting. After reviewing the EOM, the voter stated he is fixing up property in the city of Sandusky and does spend some time there. Ms. Link and Ms. James informed the voter that if he wants to vote, he would have to vote provisionally. They also informed him that the board has the ultimate say in whether a provisional ballot is counted, and informed him of the date and time of the official canvass meeting. The voter completed a voter registration form and a provisional ballot affirmation envelope and placed his voted ballot inside.

Afterwards, Ms. James emailed the SOS legal department to ask the best way to handle this situation. They reached out via phone and said that in the future, a voter in this situation should complete Form 10-U, Affidavit Oath Examination of Person Challenged. Even though office staff did not know this voter personally, what he said would have qualified him to complete the form. The form asks questions such as Do you reside in this precinct, how long have you lived here, and what is your current mailing address. The legal department also stated it was a board decision on whether the ballot is counted.

Ms. Crescimano motioned to not count the ballot, with Mr. Monaghan seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried.

Mr. Ferrell asked the difference between election day ballots and mail-in ballots. Ms. James stated there were 1,512 election day ballots cast, and 1,080 absentee ballots cast, which includes both mail-in and early, in person.

Ms. Crescimano made a motion to recess until 3:00 p.m., with Mr. Monaghan seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried. Board recessed at 9:13 a.m.

Ms. Crescimano made a motion to reconvene, with Mr. Monaghan seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried. Board reconvened at 9:28 a.m.

Ms. James stated that one of the absentee ballots the board said was eligible to be counted had an overvote. The voter colored in the "Yes" oval, then crossed that off and voted No. Bipartisan board staff remade the ballot with a No vote. The board members took a few moments to review the remade ballot. Mr. Monaghan made a motion to accept the remade ballot, with Ms. Crescimano seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried.

Ms. Crescimano made a motion to recess until 3:00 p.m., with Mr. Monaghan seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried. Board recessed at 9:29 a.m.

Mr. Monaghan made a motion to reconvene, with Ms. Crescimano seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried. Board reconvened at 3:00 p.m. for the purpose of the official election certification and regular meeting. Guests present were Jason Hinners from the Erie County Prosecutor's Office, Rachel Ruffer from the SOS Office, PT Barnum, MaryAnn Groot, Amy Grubbe, Alex Jones, and Ginny Wicker-Piddock.

Ms. James stated the total number of votes cast was 2,606. Voter turnout was 15.97 percent. 854 people voted yes, and 1,751 people voted no, so the issue did not pass. The board members took a few moments to sign the Certificate of Results page to submit to the SOS office.

The board then decided on the date and time of the post-election audit, plus the machines to audit. Ms. James stated that according the EOM, Chapter 11, Page 344, if there is no recount, the audit may start six days after the official results are declared and must be completed by the 21<sup>st</sup> day. The board decided to conduct the audit on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

The board then randomly chose memory sticks to decide which machines to audit. The first stick chosen was for the Sandusky Cultural Center, San H & I. There were 186 ballots cast there. The second stick chosen was for the Ebenezer Baptist Church, San J & N. There were 135 ballots cast there. We must audit at least two machines and at least five percent of the ballots cast. Five percent for this election is 131, so we have more than enough.

Mr. Ferrell stated that we've all been notified by the SOS of Alex Jones' appointment, so maybe we can reconvene the reorganization meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> as well. Mr. Hinners asked if Mr. Jones' appointment was official. Ms. Crescimano stated that we all received phone calls this afternoon and that the state would send a letter later this afternoon. Mr. Hinners stated it was his suggestion to finish the reorganization sooner than the 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ferrell stated he was not sure if he could.

**Ms. Crescimano stated that once the letter from the SOS office is sent, Mr. Jones can start as director. Mr. Ferrell suggested that Mr. Jones talk with Matt Wilson in HR to fill out his paperwork. Mr. Hinnars stated he thought at the previous meeting the motion was that Ms. James would continue as deputy director until the reorganization. The board members confirmed that was correct.**

**Mr. Monaghan asked if we had agreed on salaries. Ms. Crescimano stated that when we had the budget hearing, it was said the director and deputy would be \$70,000. Mr. Ferrell stated that was incorrect. Ms. Crescimano stated that it should have been anywhere between \$65,000 and \$70,000. If we give the director and deputy director \$75,000, then we'll have to make cuts somewhere else. Mr. Ferrell commented that the board sets the salary. He also said that Mr. Monaghan did some research regarding what other employees are paid.**

**Ms. Crescimano stated she may have made the motion, but the information that was given to her was incorrect. The county commissioners told former board member Jeff Krabill that the salary would be anywhere between 65 and 70. Ms. Crescimano stated that Mr. Krabill incorrectly told her 75, then called and apologized and said it should have been between 65 and 70.**

**Mr. Monaghan stated that he did a survey of how many hours the director and deputy director work over a four-year period, and he thinks the salary should be \$72,000. He said if it's less than that, then the director and deputy are making less than the clerks. The board members agreed they would talk about it more at the next meeting.**

**Ms. James asked if the next board meeting would be Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. and would consist of the audit, reorganization, and regular monthly meeting. Mr. Ferrell stated yes.**

**Mr. Monaghan made a motion to adjourn, with Ms. Crescimano seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried. Board adjourned at 3:15 p.m.**

**Adrienne G. James, Deputy Director**

**Attest:**

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**Thomas M. Ferrell, Temporary Chairman**