

The recount, post-election audit, and special meeting of the Erie County Board of Elections was called to order by Chairman Thomas Ferrell on Monday, August 29th, 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	Absent

Guests in attendance: Rachel Ruffer from SOS office, Amy Grubbe, Patricia Kraft, and Bill Parmentar

The race to be recounted was Republican State Central Committee Woman, 13th District. Adrienne James, Deputy Director, stated that the board members would need to randomly select precincts to hand recount equal to at least five percent of the ballots cast in that race. The board members chose the precinct Huron D, in which 45 Republican ballots were cast and the precinct Vermilion 3-A, in which 22 Republican ballots were cast. This equals 67 ballots. Five percent of the ballots cast in this race equals 48, so 67 is more than enough.

Motion to recess until 12:00 p.m. was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried. Board recessed at 9:03 a.m.

While in recess, the bipartisan BOE staff conducted the hand recount of the two precincts selected. The hand recount matched exactly with the numbers from the official canvass.

After the hand recount, the Director and Deputy Director tested the high-speed scanner. They then ran all ballots cast for this race through the high-speed scanner.

Motion to exit recess and return to regular session was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Monaghan. Motion carried. Board returned to regular session at 12:00 p.m.

Ms. James stated that the results of the recount match exactly with the results of the official canvass. Jean Anderson received 476 votes, while Patty Stein received 399 votes. Ms. James stated she would email the results of the recount to Lorain County, since they are the most populous county for this race.

Motion to accept the results of the recount was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Monaghan. Motion carried.

Motion to recess was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Monaghan. Motion carried. Board recessed at 12:04 p.m.

While in recess, the bipartisan BOE staff conducted the post-election audit. They audited the following Election Day voting machines, which were randomly chosen by the board members at the last meeting:

- Ritter Public Library DS200
- Berlin Heights Municipal Building DS200
- Berlin Township Fire Station DS200

The following contested races were audited:

- Republican State Central Committee Man, 13th District
- Republican State Senator, 13th District
- Republican State Representative, 54th District

Motion to exit recess and return to regular session was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried. Board returned to regular session at 12:41 p.m.

Ms. James stated that the results of the post-election audit match perfectly with the results of the official canvass.

Motion to accept the results of the audit was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Monaghan. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Motion carried. The board members, the director, and the deputy director signed the audit paperwork to submit to the SOS office.

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 15th meeting was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda was “any other matters to come before the board.” Ms. Grubbe stated she had a follow-up question from the last meeting regarding the Ohio Veterans Home. Mr. Ferrell asked if they were interested in having us again. Ms. Grubbe stated yes. She also stated that the OVH did not expect the polling location change to the basement of the County Service Center to be permanent. Mr. Ferrell asked who we should contact. Ms. Grubbe stated she spoke with Kimberly Lewallen, who works with the OVH Superintendent.

Mr. Ferrell asked BOE staff to contact Ms. Lewallen. Lori Salyers, Director, stated that she spoke with the OVH administrator, and they were not interested in hosting us due to covid. She stated they were perfectly fine voting absentee and that they liked that better. She stated they have gotten no complaints from the residents there. Ms. Salyers also pointed out that we have voting in the basement of the County Service Center if the OVH residents want to vote on Election Day.

Mr. Ferrell stated that turnout for OVH residents was very low. Ms. Salyers stated it was low everywhere. She also stated that she spoke with Jeff Hobday of the SOS legal department, who informed her that it was not illegal to not have a voting location at the OVH. We must have a separate voting precinct for the OVH, which we do. Their precinct is Perkins Township #5. However, there is nothing in the law that states the OVH must be a polling location.

Mr. Monaghan stated he hopes the OVH provides transportation to residents who want to vote at the County Service Center on Election Day. Ms. Salyers stated that they do. Mr. Ferrell stated the most important point is that the residents there can vote. He then asked Ms. Salyers for the name and telephone number of the administrator she spoke with. Ms. Salyers stated she would give that to him.

Ms. Salyers then spoke on polling location changes. She stated she spoke with Milan Township, and they agreed to host both Milan Township #1 and #2 at the Milan Township Fire Station on St Rt 13.

Ms. Salyers also spoke with Grace Lutheran Church in Castalia, and they agreed to host the precincts Margarett Township #1 and #2. She stated that she and Ms. James visited the church, and that they have beautiful facilities that are ADA accessible.

Eventually, we would like to have all Margarett Township precincts (#1 through #4) be at the old Margarett School building, once construction of the new school is complete. Ms. Salyers stated she would speak to the schools about this. She stated it would be a good idea because if there were last-minute call-offs, there would still be plenty of remaining poll workers to work. Also, by having the polling location be a public entity, then they can't refuse us.

Mr. Monaghan asked about parking at the schools. Ms. Salyers stated there would be plenty of parking. Mr. Monaghan also asked about the Field House polling location in Vermilion. Ms. Salyers stated she called the mayor of Vermilion, who told her there was no other place for us to go. The mayor informed her that having a polling place at the Vermilion firehouse might interfere with emergency medical services.

Eliza Link, Clerk, stated that complaints about the Vermilion Field House have gone way down. Ms. Salyers agreed. She stated that people don't like change, but once they get used to it, it's not so bad.

Mr. Ferrell asked if there was anything else. Ms. James asked if the board wanted to formally vote to allow us to make the changes in Milan and Margaretta Townships. Mr. Monaghan stated he didn't think that was necessary; the other board members agreed.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss security matters, pursuant to revised code 121.22(G)(6) was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Smith. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Motion carried. Board went into executive session at 12:55 p.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 1:05 p.m.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried. Board adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Lori J. Salyers, Director

Attest:

Thomas M. Ferrell, Chairman