

The special meeting of the Erie County Board of Elections was called to order by Chairman Thomas Ferrell on Tuesday, October 11th, 2022 at 11:00 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: Rachel Ruffer from SOS Office

The topic of the meeting was compensation for precinct election officials, or PEOs, working in 2023. Lori Salyers, Director, wrote a letter to the county commissioners, letting them know we are proposing an increase in pay for PEOs from \$110 a day to \$130 a day next year. The commissioners returned the letter saying they voted to disapprove the raise.

Mr. Krabill explained that the commissioners voted in error. They thought we were proposing an increase for this year, not next year.

Ms. Salyers stated she spoke with Hank Solowiej, County Administrator, this morning. Mr. Solowiej confirmed that the commissioners voted in error, as they thought the proposed raise was for this year, not next year. Ms. Salyers told Mr. Solowiej that it is very hard to recruit poll workers, and pay is a factor. The current pay of \$110 a day for 14 hours of work is only \$7.86 per hour. Meanwhile, the Lorain County Board of Elections is advertising on the radio that PEOs receive \$200 in their county.

Mr. Solowiej asked Ms. Salyers about the miscellaneous fees she referenced in her letter. Ms. Salyers explained this is in reference to training pay, mileage pay, and rideback pay. Mr. Solowiej asked if we planned to raise the pay for those categories. Ms. Salyers stated the board has not discussed it yet, but if they do decide to raise it, we will put that in our proposed budget. Mr. Solowiej asked Ms. Salyers that the next time we write a letter proposing an increase in pay for PEOs, to please cite the relevant ORC.

Mr. Krabill stated that based on the feedback he received, he thinks we won't have a problem raising the PEO pay. The commissioners stated they were very big on us going through the budget process, and that is our intent. Mr. Ferrell stated that we always go through the budget process. Mr. Ferrell then asked Ms. Salyers if she spoke with someone at the SOS office regarding PEO pay. Ms. Salyers stated she spoke with Alice at the SOS office, who informed her that the letter we write to the commissioners is not to ask for permission; it is simply to inform the commissioners of our intent.

Mr. Smith stated that when we work on next year's budget, we should budget for a Primary Election, an August Election, and the November election. Ms. Salyers stated she would do that based on what happened this year. Mr. Ferrell asked if there would be any other elections next year. Ms. Salyers stated yes. Mr. Smith asked if it was the special election for the proposed Sandusky City charter amendment. Ms. Salyers stated yes. Mr. Smith asked if that could just be part of the Primary Election; Ms. Salyers stated no. She also stated she was not sure how much she could reveal on the charter amendment issue without legal counsel being present.

Mr. Ferrell asked if Sandusky city would have to pay for the election. Mr. Smith stated yes, but they would pay after the fact. Ms. Salyers confirmed that was correct. She also stated we need to wait to hear from Sandusky city before we officially declare the Special Election.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues, specifically compensation, pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1), was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried. Board went into executive session at 11:15 a.m.

Motion to leave executive session and return to regular session was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Krabill. Motion carried. Board resumed regular session at 11:40 a.m.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Monaghan, seconded by Mr. Krabill. Motion carried. Board adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Lori J. Salyers, Director

Attest:

Thomas M. Ferrell, Chairman