

The regular monthly meeting of the Erie County Board of Elections was called to order by board member William Monaghan at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

Roll Call:	(D) Thomas M. Ferrell, Chairman	Absent (excused)
	(D) William J. Monaghan, Member	Present
	(R) Nicholas J. Smith, Member	Present
	(R) Jeffrey N. Krabill, Member	Present

Guests in attendance: Rachel Mullen from SOS office, Amy Grubbe, and Mary Ann Groot

Mr. Monaghan stated we need a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Krabill asked if there was anything unusual or exciting with the bills this month. Lori Salyers, Director, stated that we were able to save some money by buying supplies from a different source. For example, she bought 18 packs of post-it notes for \$13. Had she bought a pack of 24 from Seagate, it would have cost \$50. Ms. Salyers also showed the board members some reports from the finance department regarding our accounts. She stated that she took all the money in the training account and placed it in the account to pay poll workers. Mr. Smith asked how we were doing with poll workers. Ms. Salyers responded that we were doing well.

Motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Krabill, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Krabill. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda was an update on early and absentee voting. Adrienne James, Deputy Director, stated that so far, 1,113 ballots have been mailed out, and 524 have been returned for counting. 773 voters have voted early, in-office. 47 ballots have been hand-carried, with 24 of those returned for counting. 86 nursing home ballots have been delivered, and seven military and overseas ballots have been delivered as well. Ms. James also stated that she and Ms. Salyers started scanning but not tabulating absentee ballots, and so far the numbers match perfectly with the numbers in our voter registration system.

Mr. Smith asked how we were doing with the Ohio Veterans Home. Ms. James stated that she contacted Naomi Twine to remind her to turn in the absentee ballot applications for the residents. Ms. Twine stated they were working on it and would submit the applications soon. If the residents live in the independent living area, they can come here to vote early, or come here on Election Day to vote in the basement.

Mr. Monaghan asked how we were doing with moving the Vermilion polling location for Vermilion 3-A and 3-B. Ms. Salyers responded that we weren't moving the location for this election because it is too late. Mr. Smith asked if there was any progress on moving the location for next election. Ms. Salyers stated she called the mayor and he said he would get back to her. She has not heard back from him yet, but she will contact him again sometime after this election. Mr. Smith commented on how the location keeps being moved, and that the Vermilion fire station would be an ideal location.

Mr. Monaghan asked if there were any other matters to come before the board. Ms. Grubbe stated she had a couple of questions. She asked if there were going to be signs up at the polling locations regarding mask wearing. Ms. Salyers responded no, because masks are not mandated by the county. Ms. Grubbe asked what if people are not vaccinated. Ms. Salyers stated there still won't be signs. She also stated that we can't ask people whether or not they're vaccinated due to HIPAA. Ms. Grubbe asked if there was going to be a sign just saying it's recommended. Ms. Salyers stated she didn't think the SOS office sent anything out like that.

Mr. Smith stated he knows the judges have mandated masks in courtrooms, but as far as mask wearing at the polling locations, that mandate has to come from the SOS office. Ms. Grubbe asked if there were going to be masks available at the polling locations. Ms. Salyers stated yes. Ms. Grubbe asked what other protective equipment would be provided. Ms. Salyers stated masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, alcohol wipes, and gloves.

Ms. Grubbe then asked where we were with the dropbox. Mr. Monaghan replied that we're where we were the last time we met. Ms. Grubbe asked if anyone was going to go upstairs and speak with the commissioners. Mr. Monaghan replied that we have communicated with the commissioners more than once in reference to the dropbox.

Mr. Krabill stated that, as he understands it, county personnel came by to pick up the dropbox and place it where the commissioners want it, but that did not happen. Ms. Salyers replied that she could not allow that to happen, because according to Sue Brown from the prosecutor's office, the board has to vote on it, and they have not done so yet.

Mr. Smith stated, "Let's take care of that now. I'm going to make a motion that we turn the dropbox over to the county commissioners for them to install it and in the process of turning it over to the county commissioners we provide them the information from the Secretary of State regarding the handicap accessibility. From there they'll install it and make their judgement. It's their property. When we give them the box, we give them the report. That's my motion."

Mr. Krabill seconded the motion. Mr. Monaghan stated he thinks we need to clarify where we want the box to make it ADA accessible. He stated that we had the SOS ADA coordinator do an assessment, and where the commissioners want the box is not ADA compatible.

Mr. Smith responded that in his review of the communication from the SOS office, it didn't say the box has to go a certain place. The report said ADA is a factor, but not the deciding factor. He stated we should give the commissioners the report, and then they can make a decision.

Mr. Monaghan replied that the county commissioners do not run the Board of Elections. Our board should be saying where we want that box, not the county commissioners. Mr. Smith stated he has no problem amending his motion to include a caveat that Bill Monaghan, a member of the Board of Elections, recommends that the commissioners put the box on the north end.

Mr. Monaghan stated you should not be putting something up that is not ADA compatible. That just does not make any sense. Mr. Smith responded that if the commissioners do place the box in a non-accessible spot, then the ramifications of that falls on them.

Mr. Monaghan asked if Ms. Salyers would poll the board. Ms. Salyers stated yes. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Monaghan, "Do you want me to amend the motion to include your preference that the box be on the north side?" Mr. Monaghan stated that would be good.

Mr. Smith stated he amends his motion, and that in doing so, we add that Board Member Bill Monaghan's preference is the north side. Mr. Monaghan asked "And if it's not ADA accessible, then what?" Mr. Krabill stated that would be for the commissioners to sort out. Ms. Salyers then polled the board.

Mr. Monaghan- yes

Mr. Smith- yes

Mr. Krabill- yes.

Motion carried.

Ms. Grubbe stated she had a question. Does the motion mean that all three board members are in agreement that the box needs to be placed on the north end? Mr. Monaghan stated that he's saying we should go by the recommendation from the SOS. If the commissioners go against the SOS office, there's nothing we can do about it.

Ms. Salyers asked the board members if they wanted her to contact Gary Weilnau in facilities to place the box where the commissioners want it. Mr. Monaghan stated that he thinks we need to let the commissioners know exactly what our motion was.

**Mr. Krabill stated the new box would not be installed by Election Day. Mr. Smith stated he did not want it installed by then, because he does not want any confusion. Mr. Monaghan stated there would be plenty of time after the election.**

**Ms. Salyers stated that once Ms. James is finished with the minutes, she will send a copy of the minutes and the SOS report to the commissioners. Mr. Monaghan stated to call the administrator upstairs and let him know exactly what was said after we get the minutes processed and we'll go from there.**

**Mr. Monaghan then made a motion to go into executive session to discuss board personnel. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.**

**Mr. Monaghan- yes  
Mr. Smith- yes  
Mr. Krabill- yes**

**Motion carried. Board went into executive session at 9:16 a.m.**

**Motion to return to regular session was made by Mr. Krabill, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried. Board returned to regular session at 9:28 a.m.**

**Mr. Krabill asked about comparing turnout this election to past elections. Ms. James stated that if you go on our website, click on Absentee Reporting, and then choose the last like election, which was November 2019, you can get a sense of how this election compares to past elections. The board members then took a few moments to speculate about turn-out this year.**

**Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Krabill, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried. Board adjourned at 9:30 a.m.**

**Lori J. Salyers, Director**

**Attest:**

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**Thomas M. Ferrell, Chairman**