

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 02-08-2022**

Chairman Freytag called the meeting to order at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Ave. in the lower-level classroom at 10:01 A.M. on Tuesday, February 8th, 2022. The Roll Call was as follows: Bill Freytag, present, Jonathon C. Elgin, present, Megan Whatman, present, and Lydia Reid, present. Also present at this meeting were Director Matt Finfgeld and Deputy Director Jane Zimmermann, Rachel Mullen the Northern Ohio Regional Liaison from the SOS, and News Journal reporter Mark Caudill.

Chairman Freytag asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 12-07-2021 meeting, Mr. Elgin made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Whatman and passed by voice vote 4-0. Director Finfgeld next reviewed the bills for the months of December and January. The December bills were \$11,870.37 from the General Fund, \$9,383.24 from the voting equipment fund, and three pay periods totaling \$39,705.70. The January bills were \$131,654.748 from the General Fund, and two pays totaling \$26,281.59. A motion to approve the bills as presented was made by Ms. Whatman, seconded by Ms. Reid and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0. Chairman Freytag next asked if there was any public comment from the guest present, there were no comments.

Chairman Freytag asked if there were any items of old business to come before the board. The Directors updated the board on the conversion process with Triad. All the poll workers have been put in Triad, and we are working on new assignment letters for them that are more job specific. All the petitions were checked and entered into Triad. Next Triad will be going over entering absentee and provisional voters.

The first item of new business was the IRS increasing the mileage rate to .585. Ms. Reid made a motion to have the mileage rate be what the IRS set .585. The motion was seconded by Ms. Whatman and passed by voice vote 4-0. Next on the agenda was to review and approve the 2022 budget. Director Finfgeld stated the commissioners approved the amounts they had asked for. The general fund budget is \$868,245.95, poll workers budget is \$145,590.00, and the voting equipment budget is \$130,000.00. Mr. Elgin made a motion to approve the 2022 budget, seconded by Ms. Whatman and passed by voice vote 4-0.

The next item on the agenda was to certify Candidates and issues for the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 Primary Election. Director Finfgeld reviewed 5 petitions that had been withdrawn due to errors. They were all Republican Central Committee petitions and are as follows; Marlo Hartz - Shelby 3-B, Tood Hall - Monroe A, Gary Bishop - Plymouth, Victoria Lash – Sandusky, Shane Allyne – Troy A. Marlo Hartz is the only candidate who has not filed a new petition or to be a write-in from the 5. Ms. Reid made a motion for the 5 petitions to be withdrawn, and was seconded by Mr. Elgin and passed by voice vote 4-0. Director Finfgeld presented the valid petitions to the board and pointed out there were several write-in candidates for Republican Central committee they are as follows; Joanna Thomas – Franklin, Sara Hellman – Madison D, Jerry Snay – Mifflin A, Victoria Lash – Sandusky, Jane Zimmermann – Ontario 1A, and Shane Allyne – Troy A. The board also reviewed the list of issues. Ms. Whatman made a motion to certify Candidates and Issues as presented including the write-in candidates. The motion was seconded by Mr. Elgin and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

Next on the agenda was the review of Poll Worker training schedule. Director Finfgeld went over the six days and times scheduled. Mr. Elgin made a motion to approve the training schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Whatman and passed by voice vote 4-0.

The next item of business on the agenda was the chargebacks for the November 2021 General Election. Deputy Director Zimmermann provided the Board a cover sheet with the breakdown by entity and a total amount of \$88,365.52 in chargebacks for the General Election. Mr. Elgin made a motion to approve the chargebacks as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Whatman and passed by a voice vote 4-0.

The next item of business was informational for the Board. Director Finfgeld reviewed the write-in deadline, voter registration deadline and early voting hours for the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 Primary Election. Next on the agenda Deputy Director Zimmermann informed the Board that Enhanced Voting took over the remote ballot from Knowink in 2021. The Director’s just found out about this change a few weeks ago. The Director’s did have a call with Aaron Wilson from Enhanced Voting, and he reassured them that we wouldn’t see any change even the login would stay the same.

Under other business Director Finfgeld asked the Board to think about what they would like to do with Frank LaRose’s name being on election material for this year’s upcoming election since he will be on the ballot. Director Finfgeld explained we do not allow any candidate to have anything up in the polling place with their name on it, or signs or campaign material within 100 feet of the door. Chairman Freytag asked Rachel Mullins from the SOS office if there has been any guidance. Rachel said she has not heard of any but would check on it. The Board agreed to revisit this in March.

The last thing under other was Chairman Freytag wanted to know the Board’s thoughts on the email and request from Ms. Tania Bartell. The consensus of the Board was it’s the duty of the Richland County Board of Elections to ensure every election in Richland County is conducted in a fair and accurate manner. To date, no instances of election fraud or voting irregularities for the 2020 General Election in Richland County have been brought to our attention. If Ms. Bartell has any specific issues or concerns, to present them to one or both of the Director’s for investigation. The Board unanimously agreed to not participate in the event as requested.

With no further business to come before the board, Ms. Reid made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Whatman, and passed by voice vote 4-0. Chairman Freytag adjourned the meeting at 10:30 A.M.

Date approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Bill Freytag, Chairman

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Jonathon C. Elgin

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Lydia J. Reid

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Megan Whatman

Attest:

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Matt Finfgeld

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Jane Zimmermann