

February 10, 2021

The Washington County Board of Elections held their monthly meeting on February 10, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. Present were Mr. Sipe, Mr. Ray, Mr. Wentz, Ms. Ritter, Mandy Amos, Director, and Karen Pawloski, Deputy Director. Members of the public attending were Jedd Butler, Mark Mondo, and Abe Sellers.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Chairman Sipe opened the meeting. He then asked for members of the public to give their input. Abe Sellers, an attorney representing JetLag, LLC. JetLag has been trying to get a liquor option for Belpre 4A with prospects of building a restaurant in the precinct. Mr. Sellers had been retained by JetLag to get the petitions signed to place the option on the ballot in the May 4, 2021 Primary. When the petitions were returned, BOE staff determined they did not meet the needed 166 valid signatures from registered residents. They were short 13 signatures, whereby the names were printed and did not match the signature on the voters' record. Mr. Sellers then provided signed affidavits from 14 of the petition signers stating that was indeed their signature. Mr. Sellers also provided the Board an opinion by the Ohio Supreme Court in 2019 in The Village of Georgetown v. Brown County Board of Elections where the Ohio Supreme Court overturned the Brown County BOE decision not to validate the signatures because they were printed. It was determined to be an abuse of discretion to invalidate them. The Board had to recess to allow the staff to determine if the affidavit signatures were legitimate. Mr. Ray made a motion to go into recess and Ms. Ritter seconded the motion. Once the staff completed the task, Mr. Ray made a motion to come out of recess and Ms. Ritter seconded the motion. After some questioning from the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Wentz to accept JetLag's affidavits and certify the petitions and was seconded by Mr. Ray. Ms. Ritter recused herself from the vote due to the fact Mr. Sellers is an attorney in her firm, Theisen Brock.

Bills

Quill	staples, speakers, paper, vacuum	\$437.27
Suddenlink	monthly internet charge and fees	\$106.31
Aardvark	security system one month monitoring fee	\$28.95
Insight	4-Fujitsu desktop document scanners	\$3,735.87
Quill	folders, paper, canned air	\$151.95
Aardvark	security system one month monitoring fee	\$28.95
Poynter's	Annual maintenance agreement color copier	\$1,777.96
Poynter's	Zoom meeting hardware	\$5,385
Pitney Bowes	repair to envelope opener	\$926.50
Uline	replacement wheels for metal cart	\$75.00
Secretary of State	2019-Cybersecurity grant money return	\$31,100.65

Since all of the Board was present a vote was taken to purchase the Zoom Hardware that will enable the staff or Board to initiate Zoom meetings. The cost is \$5,385. Mr. Wentz made the motion to approve the purchase and Mr. Ray seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Wentz gave the motion to approve the bills and Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Correspondence

Directive 2021-01 Updated Election Official Manual and Related Directives
Advisory 2021-01 Recognized Minor Political Parties Following the 2020 General Election
Letter from Decatur township trustees for polling location move for the 5/4/21 election

Director Amos informed the Board there was a candidate who wanted to file in Belpre City for Council at Large Seat but did not complete the petition correctly. He indicated he wanted to run as an Independent and had the wrong forms. Since he paid the fee, he asked if his already paid fee could go towards a credit with his next petition filing. The gentleman did not show up at the meeting to present his case to the Board.

Ms. Amos also read a letter from Decatur Township Trustees asking if the Primary for May 4 could be moved to the Decatur Township Building since it's the only thing on the ballot for them. Chairman Sipe asked which polling locations will be open. Ms. Amos said Belpre Church of Christ and Porterfield will need to be open since Belpre Township will have a levy and city races. Discussion was made on changing voting locations for one township when we've told others we would not. Another point was made that if we use the schools for November it can be more confusing for the voters. The Board decided that Decatur voters can vote in the Porterfield Baptist Church for the May primary. Voters who live in the Marietta City School District who normally vote in Newport will now be asked to vote in the Primary at Marietta Township Recreation Center in Reno.

Ms. Amos presented the Board the Chargebacks from the November 2020 Election. The total was \$15,165.85 and is money that entities are charged to them to have their initiative on the ballot. Chairman Sipe asked for a motion to approve the chargebacks. Ms. Ritter made the motion and Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The staff presented the petitions for the May 4 Primary.

First was a petition by John Ruth for Belpre Council At-Large, who had the wrong date on the petitions. He signed with February 3 (the date the petitions were due to the BOE) but had signatures with dates prior to February 3. After much discussion, the Chairman asked for a motion on the petition. Mr. Wentz made the motion to accept Mr. Ruth's petition and Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Board then considered a petition from Kristopher Madison who filed a petition to run as a Republican in the First Ward in Belpre. He did not have enough valid signatures on his petition. Mr. Wentz made a motion to not accept the petition due to the invalidity of some of the signatures. Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Board then reviewed the petitions for Belpre City Council, Treasurer, and Auditor. They are as follows:

First Ward: Floyd Millhone, 120 A Elm St., Belpre
Second Ward: John McClead, 814 Elm St., Belpre
Third Ward: Lyndsay Dennis, 803 Jennielou St., Belpre
Council-at-Large: David Ferguson, 902 Morgan Ave., Belpre
John Ruth, 1 Buckeye Lane, Belpre
President of Council: Larry Martin, 208 Elm St., Belpre
Donna Miller, 2710 Underwood Dr., Belpre
Treasurer: Jacquelyn Cassady, 824 Belrock Ave., Belpre
Auditor: Alison Holland, 831 George St., Belpre
Tina Nolan, 6 Shell Circle, Belpre

Mr. Wentz made the motion to approve these candidates' petitions and Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Marietta City Council and Treasurer petitions were then reviewed by the Board. They are:

First Ward: Michael Scales (D), 501 Oakwood Ave., Marietta
Second Ward: Bret Allphin (D), 608 Washington St., Marietta
Christopher Pfeiffer (R), 431 Fourth St., Marietta
Third Ward: William Gossett (R), 802 Sixth St., Marietta
Fourth Ward: Geoffrey Schenkel (D), 214 Putnam Ave., Marietta
Council-at-Large: Susan Boyer (D), 122 Rathbone Rd., Marietta
William Farnsworth (D), 716 Fifth St., Marietta
Cassidi Shoaf (R), 525 Third St., Marietta
President of Council: Susan Vessels (R), 312 Fifth St., Marietta
Treasurer: Cathy Harper (R), 715 Second St., Marietta

Mr. Wentz made the motion to approve these candidates' petitions and Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There was also a petition from Daniel Ritchey who is running for Marietta Township Trustee. Mr. Wentz made the motion to accept the petition and Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Trustees from Decatur Township are asking for a \$2.6 mill levy for Ambulance Service. Mr. Wentz made a motion to accept their proposed tax levy and Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Belpre Township Trustee are asking voters to approve a \$2.6 mill levy for Ambulance Service. Mr. Wentz made the motion to accept the proposal and Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Voters in Marietta Township will be asked to renew three levies for fire protection and emergency services. The levies are \$1.6 mill, \$1 mill, and \$.5 mill. Mr. Wentz made a motion to accept the proposal and Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Marietta City School District will be asking voters to approve a 0.75% income tax levy for current expenses. Mr. Wentz made the motion to approve and Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

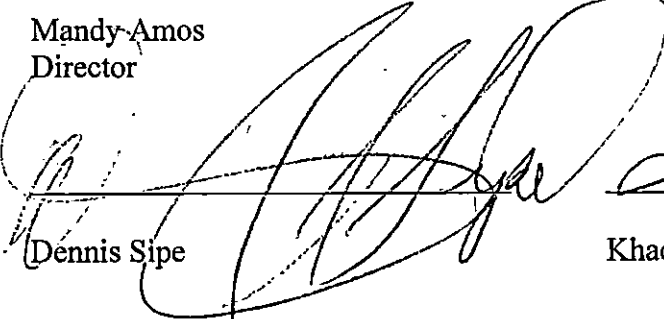
Trustees from East Muskingum Township are asking voters to approve a \$1.5 mill levy for fire protection and emergency medical services. Mr. Wentz made a motion to approve the levy and Mr. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Board was asked to approve the additional salary for temporary seasonal employees who worked over 40 hours a few weeks prior to the election on November 3, 2020. It was brought to the staffs' attention that temporary seasonal employees are under the Fair Labor Standards Act and should have been paid time and one half for any hours worked over 40. The Board agreed that the seasonal employees had already been paid straight time for the hours worked over 40 hours and only needed to be compensated for the half not paid. This was a 1/3 of their hourly wage times 1-1/2. The total for seven employees is \$1,070.02. Mr. Wentz made a motion to approve the additional pay and Ms. Ritter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

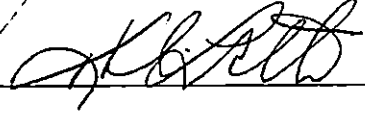
Chairman Sipe then asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wentz gave the motion and Ms. Ritter seconded the motion – the motion carried.

Next Meeting will be our regular and reorganizational meeting and held March 3, 2021 at 8:30 am.

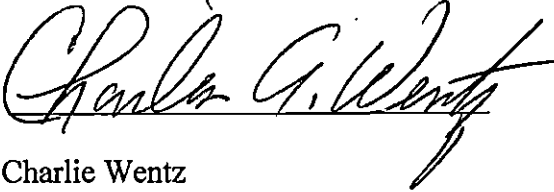
Mandy Amos
Director




Dennis Sipe



Khadine Ritter



Charlie Wentz



R. Glenn Ray