

April 9, 2020

The Washington County Board of Elections held an emergency meeting on April 9, 2020. Present were Mr. Sipe, Mr. Halliday, and Mr. Wentz, Mandy Amos, Director, and Karen Pawloski, Deputy Director. MR. Ray joined by speaker phone.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Sipe opened the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the mailing of a letter and absentee ballot applications from a Washington County Commissioner candidate and those applications going to a PO Box owned by CPC, LLC, a company located in Marietta, Ohio. Alison Cauthorn, Assistance Prosecuting Attorney joined the meeting via phone call. The Board had concerns as to an entity other than the BOE receiving personal information and making sure the voter actually receives an Absentee Ballot. The Ohio Revised Code indicates that once a voter completes an application for an absentee ballot and it is not sent directly to the BOE, the entity that has the application has ten (10) days from the date of receiving the application and forwarding it on to the BOE. It was decided a letter would be sent from the BOE to all individuals listed in the letter that was sent to all registered Republicans in the county. Ms. Cauthorn indicated they need to be made aware of all of the legal requirements to have applications.

Mr. Sipe said we will not interpret the statute but say they can consult with their attorney concerning the statute.

Mr. Halliday asked if the press had been notified of this or had we gotten any calls.....Ms. Pawloski said she had done an interview with WTAP and was returning a call to WMOA radio.

Mr. Halliday made a motion to send a letter to the candidates and three individuals named on the letter. Ms. Pawloski asked if the letter needed to go to both candidates when the disclaimer only listed one candidate. The Board felt it was important to send it to all names listed on the letter.

Mr. Wentz asked how this election compared to others that had in person voting. Director Amos said in 2016, 3000 absentee ballots were cast and 13000 people voted in person.

Mr. Sipe asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Halliday made the motion and Mr. Ray seconded the motion. Motion carried and meeting adjourned.

Mandy Amos  
Director

Dennis Sipe

John Halliday

Charlie Wentz

R. Glenn Ray