

**August 6, 2020 PRE GENERAL ELECTION MEETING OF THE
DELAWARE COUNTY ELECTION BOARD**

PRESENT: Gerald Lawrence, Chairman
Jim Byrne
Ashley Lunkenheimer
J. Manly Parks, Board Solicitor

Also Present: Laureen Hagan, Bureau of Elections
Marianne Jackson, Bureau of Elections
Jim Savage, Voting Machine Warehouse

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Byrne Comments. Agendas should be posted earlier to allow enough time for Board members and the public to review them in advance of meetings. Mr. Byrne raised multiple questions about: why he's been excluded from discussions and communications; Mr. Parks' participation in a job candidate interview without authority to make decisions on behalf of the Board; Councilwoman Christine Reuther's involvement with Board members carrying out their assigned duties and responsibilities; and the legality of holding Election Bureau staff meetings in terms of producing minutes or advertising them to the public. He also indicated that he wanted to remove an agenda item for lack of available information that was ultimately included on the final agenda pertaining to dropboxes; and desired to add a discussion item about Mr. Savage's communications with him. When seeking information, he asserted that responses to his emails were either never provided or were insufficient. A lengthy discussion ensued with Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Parks responding to questions and issues raised by Mr. Byrne. Mr. Savage also presented his perspective on the email exchange with Mr. Byrne and requested that Mr. Byrne provide specific details supporting his claim that Mr. Savage (allegedly) bullied individuals responsible for organizing poll locations. Ms. Lunkenheimer moved a motion to vote on a request for Mr. Parks to provide a legal memo on the legality of Election Bureau staff meetings as currently conducted with the occasional participation of Board members and Mr. Byrne seconded. The motion carried with the unanimous vote of the Board to approve the request.

Dropbox update. Mr. Lawrence explained that as a result of a change in Pennsylvania law, voters could now return mail-in or absentee ballots to dropboxes. Staff was consequently asked to research the cost of dropboxes and potential options for deploying them throughout the county. He added no action would be taken today on the matter but thought it would be prudent to gather additional information during the meeting. Ms. Hagan explained that quotes have been requested from vendors but no orders for dropboxes have been placed to date. She noted that County Council approved a Center for Tech and Civic Life grant, as reported by Councilwoman Reuther at last night's (August 5, 2020) meeting, for the purchase of 50 dropboxes at a cost of \$152,562.50, excluding installation and video security costs. She explained that while County council can make financial decisions related to the purchase of dropboxes, any decisions on deployment of them rests with the Board of Elections and not County Council. Mr. Byrne requested Mr. Parks provide a legal memo regarding the legality of the dropboxes and their deployment. Mr. Parks commented about the legality of dropboxes, referencing identical language in sections 1306 and 1306-d(a) of Act 77, pertaining to voters returning mail-in and absentee ballots, respectively. Mr. Byrne moved a motion that Mr. Parks provide a legal memo on the legality of dropboxes before any Board vote on the matter and Ms. Lunkenheimer seconded. The motion carried with the unanimous vote of the Board to approve the request for a legal memo.

Voting Machine Warehouse report. Mr. Savage detailed bipartisan agreement on poll location changes as follows:

1. Lansdowne 2, 3, and 4, to move to Penn Wood High School and Lansdowne 10 to move to 20th Century Club.
2. Chadds Ford Northeast and Southwest precincts to move to a vacant storefront at the Village at Painter's Crossing shopping center.

Ms. Lunkenheimer moved a motion to vote on bipartisan agreements to move poll locations as presented and Mr. Byrne seconded. The motion carried with the unanimous vote of the Board to approve them.

Public Comments. Ms. Hagan read comments submitted by members of the public.

Terry Baraldi – Submitted multiple questions and comments about: urging legislators to move up the date to allow earlier scan processing of mail-in ballots; confirmed location for return of ballots; how will ballot scanning at poll locations affect closing; when will voters who opted in the spring to have November ballots automatically mailed to them receive confirmation they will be sent; respond to my questions so information can be shared.

Christina Iacono – Question about whether Mr. Byrne visited new voter services space and whether he consequently had a different opinion about the need for additional county office space.

Mr. Lawrence adjourned the meeting after stating there was no other business.