

**January 15, 2021 PRE PRIMARY MEETING OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY
ELECTION BOARD**

PRESENT: Gerald Lawrence
Ashley Lunkenheimer
James Byrne, Jr.
William Martin, Solicitor

Also Present: Laureen Hagan, Bureau of Elections
Crystal Winterbottom, Voter Registration Office
Jim Savage, Voting Machine Warehouse
Howard Lazarus, Executive Director
Maryanne Jackson, Interim Director of Elections
Christina Iacono, Poll Worker Coordinator

Mr. Lawrence called the meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Lawrence stated that there was an Executive Session prior to the meeting due to staffing.

Approval of Minutes from the November 24, 2020 Board Meeting. Ms. Lunkenheimer moved to approve the November 24, 2020 board minutes and Mr. Byrne seconded the motion. Motion to approve the November 24, 2020 board minutes approved 3-0.

Public Comment

Mr. Martin stated that he had emailed 17 comments received between November 24, 2020 and January 15, 2021 at noon to the election board. Mr. Martin went on to inform the board that between noon and the beginning of the board meeting an additional 3 were received and are as follows:

- 1) No address given so not read aloud but will be forwarded.
- 2) Anna Mazakowski – Delco League of Women Voters for president of the league Olivia Thorne thanked all for a fair and legal election and also stated that they were going to share a survey that they completed, and Mr. Martin stated that he would forward the survey. Mr. Lawrence stated that the surveys have been helpful in the past.
- 3) No address given therefore will not read aloud but will be forwarded mentioned poll worker payment which will be addressed in the agenda.

Mr. Lawrence acknowledged there were several comments concerning payments.

New Business

Mr. Lazarus presented to the board that Ms. Jackson be rehired on interim basis as the Elections Director. Mr. Lazarus also informed the board that the permanent position of Elections Director has been posted and that the salary of the position has been funded for in the 2021. Mr. Lazarus stated that it was a board consideration and once candidates are found that the board would then

interview the candidates and give their consideration and that Mr. Lazarus would get it through County Council, Personnel, Hiring Board etc.

Mr. Lawrence then informed those observing the meeting about how the law is written on this matter and the unique position Delaware County has being a Home Rule Charter. He also mentioned that in addition detailed how the County Council appoints the Board the and all the of the other details surrounding these matters and that the board must rely on the county HR department. Mr. Lawrence went on to mention that moving forward the created Director of Elections operates and reports to the Board of Elections.

Mr. Lazarus confirmed for Ms. Lunkenheimer her questions regarding the hiring of the position being decided by the Board. He also mentioned wanting a competitive salary and that this was included in the compensation study that was performed. Following more discussion Mr. Byrne stated that he was not comfortable hiring someone at \$130,000 - \$140,000 that position having to be newly created and proceeded to give his reasoning. Mr. Byrne also stated that the amount of salary is more than a lot of other jobs in different offices.

A motion was made by Ms. Lunkenheimer and seconded by Mr. Byrne to approve the request of Mr. Lazarus to post the Director of Elections job and to have the Board of Elections be involved in the interview, identifying of candidates with Mr. Lazarus bringing the Board more information. Motion passed 2-1.

Mr. Lazarus stated that Ms. Jackson and Ms. Perrone would need to be going before County Council the next week to have contracts renewed through June 30th however if they are not approved by the Board the County Council would be asked not to act. The anticipated goals for each were then discussed including Ms. Perrone helping with other county projects but her 1st priority would be elections. Also discussed were the compensation. Both Ms. Jackson and Ms. Perrone were praised for their jobs accomplished and that such standards will continue. After further discussion a motion was made by Ms. Lunkenheimer to recommend that County Council renew the contracts of consulting agreement and Interim Director of Elections and seconded by Mr. Byrne.
Motion approved 2-1.

Mr. Lazarus then discussed completing the move to the Chester facility and reconfiguring Voter Registration office in Media to accommodate a Voter Service Office on the ground floor of the Government Center and an Election Operation Center in Chester. Mr. Lawrence asked for thoughts from Ms. Hagan and Ms. Winterbottom. Ms. Winterbottom voiced some questions and concerns and Ms. Hagan stated concerns that it is going to be in the details with timing and space etc. Mr. Lazarus was thanked for all the thought and effort put into this so far. It was also recognized that there would need to be more construction to occur and Mr. Lazarus advised that a firm and architect would be brought in to design a best use of space plan. More discussion was had regarding the space and what could be located in where and what the architect would be planning as well as the footprint of the election's office in the future. A motion was made by Ms. Lunkenheimer that the Board of Election confirm to consolidate and reduce space in Media and still have a presence in Media and that more information would need to be brought forth and seconded by Mr. Byrne. Motion approved 3-0.

Mr. Lawrence then inquired from Mr. Lazarus any information and asked about the rollout of vaccines especially for Board of Election staff and the poll workers asking if they can be a priority before the primary? Mr. Lazarus thanked the Board and stated he was excited to start getting vaccine shipments and that there will be distribution first through 911 then open the Aston Community Center and new Delaware County Wellness Center in Yeadon. He did provide that the County is dependent on the supply from the State and that the County is well into 1A but that these concerns would be taken to heart and he would discuss with Ms. Rosemarie Halt and thanked the Board again for thoughts and concerns.

Director of Elections Report

Ms. Jason ask the Board for approval for the bidding process contract for 2021. She stated the 1st of 3 was for the contract currently held by Hughes for the pickup and return of the election caddies at the warehouse. The 2nd is for the ballot fulfillment and Ms. Jackson stated that it was the suggestion of Ms. Hagan to use a company that would fulfill both the printing and mailing out of the ballot. The 3rd would be for the cleaning and sanitizing of polling places after the primary. There was much discussion and points that the company for ballot fulfillment that was used for November did an excellent job as well as certain technical standards and specification are required for printing of the ballots. It was mentioned that this process was streamlined and logical. There was concern on the number of bids that would be received and want the maximum number and Ms. Hagan stated that the bid can be written in a manner that they receive the maximum number of bidders however preference would be given to those who provide both printing and mailing in one location. Mr. Byrne requested that all issues be on the agenda. Mr. Byrne moved to have the three contracts put out for bid (Pick Up and Return election materials, Ballot Fulfillment and Cleaning) and seconded by Ms. Lunkenheimer. Motion approved 3-0.

Chief Clerk to the Board of Elections Report

Ms. Hagan gave an update on the nomination petitions with the beginning of the petition time frame is February 16th and ends March 9th. Ms. Hagan went on to inform the Board that same as in the past on February 1, 2021 a PDF nomination packet will be available both in the office and on the County website for County and Municipal offices only and the state offices would need to contact the state. She then discussed the Incumbent MDJ form that had changed in 2019. She then discussed other changes and stated that it is in the works for the petition to be 8 ½"x11". Ms. Hagan then discussed the Unofficial Office List is being worked on and should be ready soon. Ms. Hagan stated that the Risk Limiting Audit was finished last week. Ms. Hagan hoped that the official list would be available by 2nd week of February. Mr. Lawrence requested that the list be physically at the Bureau and provided to the parties for review, as in the past years and Ms. Hagan agreed.

Poll Worker Supervisor Report

Ms. Iacono thanked all the poll workers. Ms. Iacono went on to mention that there were certain follow up trainings that are needed for certain precincts and that about 22 pct. still were not paid due to needing additional training. Mr. Lawrence explained in detail the issues with the period of time for paying the workers and obstacles that were faced after much discussion it was agreed that all the workers needed to be paid immediately. The Board agreed that they were not happy about the nonpayment even as a way for trying to make sure additional training would be taken. It has been used in the past but not to this scale. It was also suggested that it be made known

ahead of time that if additional training is deemed need rather than afterwards would be a better practice. Mr. Byrne moved to pay the poll workers that are required to go to additional training before next election or they will not be paid in the future Ms. Lunkenheimer seconded the motion. Motion approved 3-0.

Ms. Hagan received clarification that only those who were not paid due to issues not the ineligible poll workers be paid. More discussion was had regarding training and incentives. The Board was informed that no checks had not yet been processed however check request would be done and those check released on February 5, 2021.

Supervisor of the Voting Machine Warehouse Report

Mr. Savage reported that all 4 of the polling places in Marcus hook except for the 3rd pct. is going back to their historical polling location and the 3rd pct. would move to new municipal bldg. The other polling change was Upper Darby 7-6 to make the location used during the last election a permanent polling location. It was discussed that these were either bipartisan agreements or agreed upon in the municipalities. Ms. Lunkenheimer moved to approve the polling location changes that would revert Marcus Hook 1,2and 4 back to their historic locations and move Marcus Hook 3 to the new municipal building as well as make Upper Darby 7-6 current polling site permanent and Mr. Byrne seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Savage stated that the bid for delivery and return of voting machine equipment had already been discussed however he thought that previously it was a multiyear bid and last year became an annual bid that they would have every year.

Chief Clerk to Voter Registration Commission Report

Ms. Winterbottom stated that they will update the changes just made and they have been processing application received after the deadline and printing voter registration cards.

Public Comment

Mr. Martin stated there were 13-15 more comments that had come in. The first was Charlotte Hummel – Lansdowne – Her comments were on the paying of poll workers and why it took so long. She went on to discuss why there is not an accompanied breakout with the check as to amounts as well as how to dispute the amount paid to them. Mr. Lawrence referred to his earlier explanation for some of those issue and is wanting to dispute amount to send an email into delcoelection@co.delaware.pa.us. Ms. Hummel then posed her questions regarding recruiting workers and it was discussed that it is not up to leaders or parties but that is how it has been done historically and filling spots can be done by 3 ways. 1) Court Appointment 2) Emergency appointment from the board 5 days before the election or 3) Curbside morning of election.

Ruth Ann Davidson – Folsom comments were read, and it was determined already discussed earlier in the meeting.

Cynthia Long – Upper Darby 6-10 – had comments regarding the additional training.

Ann Marie Reardon – Upper Darby – Thanked those that worked and commented on why additional training.

Ruth Moton – Upper Chichester – had questions and comments on payment

Kiera Raffaledis – Upper Darby - had comments regarding the additional training.

Peg Braydon Wilson – 824 Drexel Ave - had comments on where government offices could move as there is a heights restriction in Media and that should be the courts.

Arnold Jones- 422 Windfield Ave – Wondered if county would consider an African American contractor for the work mentioned in the meeting earlier. Was told to contact the procurement office that it is through a bid process.

There were a few additional comments from Ms. Hummel with similar comments and questions as asked by other persons regarding ballots not scanning. It was discussed by Ms. Hagan that there was a small batch of ballots printed that had problems scanning but that no precinct was without. Ms. Hagan went on to state that she had spoken to HART support immediately, that Hart staff were on site and that it is believed the lines may not have been strong or crisp enough at the end of a printing. She went on to say there were more criteria in place. Ms. Hummel than commented that new boards being elected in May and that the training should be added to permanent training as not all will return to be poll workers. Again, reiterated that withholding pay for training needs to be explained before so that it is proactive not retroactive.

Ruth Ann Davidson – Folsom commented that withholding pay for additional training not effective.

There being no further business.
Meeting Adjourned