

**BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2023 – 12:15 P.M.**

Honorable Jill Gehman Koestel
Honorable James E. Gavin
Lucine Sihelnik, Commissioner
Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor
Cody L. Kauffman, First Assistant County Solicitor

BOARD OF ELECTIONS REORGANIZATION:

1. Call to order by temporary Chair County Solicitor Christine Sadler

Temporary Chair Sadler called the meeting to order at 12:15 P.M. and the public comment statement was read.

2. Temporary Chair to accept nominations for Chair of Election Board

On the nomination of Judge Gavin, seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik, the board approved Commissioner Sihelnik to serve as Chair of Election Board.

3. Chair to accept nominations for Vice Chair of Election Board

On the nomination of Judge Koestel, seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik, the board approved Judge Gavin to serve as Vice Chair of Election Board.

4. Pursuant to Third Class County Code, recognize County Solicitor Christine Sadler as Solicitor for the Elections Board

On the motion of Judge Gavin, seconded by Judge Koestel, the board appointed Christine Sadler as the Solicitor for the Elections Board.

5. Chair to accept nominations for Assistant County Solicitor for the Election Board

On the motion of Judge Gavin, seconded by Judge Koestel, the board appointed Cody Kauffman as the Assistant Solicitor for the Election Board.

6. Chair to accept nominations for Chief Clerk for the Election Board

On the motion of Judge Gavin, seconded by Judge Koestel, the board appointed Anne Norton as Chief Clerk for the Election Board.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Board approved the Election Board meeting minutes from February 9, 2023, as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion and Approval of Election Day Compensation for Day Shift, Overnight Workers, and Call Center Staff

Anne Norton led a discussion about compensation for County employees who help with Election Day duties, including the opening of mail-in ballots throughout the day and overnight and manning a call center to answer inquiries from voters. The Primary Election is a regular workday for County employees, so employees assisting with election-related tasks would receive their usual compensation, plus \$200, which is equivalent to what poll workers are paid. Employees working the overnight shift would receive their regular pay for Election Day and the following day, with supervisor approval, but would not report to work during their regular shifts since they are working through the night.

On the motion of Judge Gavin, seconded by Judge Koestel, the board approved the Election Day compensation for day shift, overnight workers and call center staff.

2. Permanent Polling Place Change for Maiden creek 3

Anne Norton explained to the Board that the polling place would be moving back to its permanent location after being temporarily relocated due to COVID-19 concerns. A notice of the change would be mailed to the affected voters.

On the motion of Judge Gavin, seconded by Judge Koestel, the board approved changing the polling place for Maiden creek, Precinct 3, for the upcoming May 16, 2023 Municipal Primary as follows:

From: Trinity Bible Fellowship Church
220 Main Street
Blandon, PA 19510

To: Keystone Villa at Fleetwood
501 Hoch Road
Blandon, PA 19510

**GENERAL COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGARDING CURRENT
ELECTION-RELATED ISSUES**

None

CITIZEN COMMENT

Maria Bogdanova-Peifer, of Oley Township, made comments regarding concerns she had about election integrity.

Jeffrey Wolfe, of Brecknock Township, said he understood the meeting was not a forum for interactive dialogue, but asked the Election Board members to comment about what election integrity means to them and why they should care about election integrity.

ADJOURNMENT: 12:30 P.M.