

**BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
July 1, 2022 – 11:00 A.M.**

Kevin S. Barnhardt, Chair
Michael S. Rivera, Vice-Chair
Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner
Paige Riegner, Chief Clerk
Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor
Cody L. Kauffman, First Assistant County Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER- 11:00 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes for the June 22, 2022 Special Election Board meeting as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment

Regarding the election day investigation, Commissioner Barnhardt announced that a recent Executive session determined several questions remain unanswered and further interviews must take place. A final report will be made public upon the completion of all inquiries.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Certification of Undated Ballots

First Assistant County Solicitor Cody Kauffman explained that the county received a letter from the Department of State's Chief Counsel, requesting Berks County to certify undated ballots. Failure to do so may result in legal action from the Department of State against Berks County. Kauffman further explained that current law is not clear regarding certification of undated ballots.

After some discussion, Commissioner Leinbach motioned to send a letter to the Department stating the County will not certify undated ballots. Commissioner Rivera seconded this motion.

Commissioner Barnhardt requested that the letter clarify it was the majority of the Board's opinion, but not unanimous.

2. Polling Place Accessibility Certification

On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, the Election Board approved submission of the annual polling place accessibility certification to the Department of State. This certification provides a summary of all accessible and inaccessible locations within the County. Currently, there are no polling places in the County which are ADA inaccessible.

3. Election Security Grant Funds

Elections Director Paige Riegner explained the Federal grant funds in the amount of about \$33,000 will go towards new office equipment.

On the motion of Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board authorized the execution of the notice of intent to accept grant funds to improve election administration.

4. Director's Update

Commissioner Barnhardt requested an update from Elections Director Paige Riegner.

Riegner stated the Elections office is diligently reorganizing. Three new positions were recently created and posted internally.

5. General Comments from the Board of Elections Regarding Current Election-Related Issues

None

CITIZEN COMMENT

1. Don Starke of Centre Township

Why hold special meetings?

Commissioner Barnhardt and Commissioner Leinbach explained that special Election Board meetings are those that are separate from the normally scheduled meetings, which are set for Thursdays at 11:00 A.M.

County Solicitor Christine Sadler added that special meetings are also held to meet certification guidelines and Department of State deadlines.

ADJOURNMENT – 11:28 A.M.