

**BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 2023 – 12:15 P.M.**

Lucine Sihelnik (virtual)
Honorable James E. Gavin
Honorable Jill Gehman Koestel
Anne Norton, Chief Clerk
Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor – not present
Cody L. Kauffman, First Assistant County Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER: 12:31 P.M.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On the motion of Judge Koestel, seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik, the Board approved the minutes for the April 27, 2023 meeting as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

Agenda Items

1. Appointment of Poll workers.

Anne Norton informed the board that poll workers are typically elected. Those that are not elected need to be approved to work at the polling locations. On the motion of Judge Koestel, seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik, the board approved appointing the poll workers listed on the attached document.

Election Director's Report

Anne Norton noted that voting machines are still being delivered to the precincts. Approximately 16,500 ballots have been sent out to voters, with roughly 176 already returned as of the time of the meeting. She said the elections staff continues to place poll workers and while most positions have been filled, the need changes daily and is updated accordingly. L&A testing of poll books is scheduled to begin on Monday, May 8, 2023. L&A testing of the high-speed optical scanners will take place on Thursday, May 11, 2023.

Public Comment

Jeff Wolfe, of Brecknock Township, made comments about the pay for the poll worker positions, stating that since the level of responsibility for Judge of Elections is higher, the pay should reflect that. He also suggested that oaths of office be executed verbally in public instead of written oaths. He also made comments about signature verification on mail-in and absentee ballots, stating that he believes any ballot with a signature that is not genuine should be set aside and the voter should be contacted and allowed to cure the ballot.

Karl Lampart, of Greenwich Township, submitted a comment online asking about the steps that are taken to prevent fraud with mail-in ballots.

Adjournment: On the motion of Judge Koestel, seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.