

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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Chairwoman Mary Rennie
Ellen Schauerman
Ann Villella

April 1, 2021

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

Chairwoman Rennie called to order an Emergency Meeting of the Erie County Board of Elections at 12:05 PM.

Roll Call

Members Present: Chairwoman Rennie; Mrs. Schauerman; Mrs. Villella

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith; Thomas Talarico; Nicole Inan; Tonia Fernandez

Hearing of the Public

Anthony "Buzz" Andrezeski, Co-Petitioner in Court dispute v. the Board of Elections - asked to clarify case items: 1. Both he and Mr. Hershey submitted petitions. 2. He filed a motion with his petitions with reasons of why his petitions were not complete. 3. A letter was received from the Board that if he did not agree with the decision to deny his petitions, he would need to file an application with the Erie County Court of Common Pleas to compel; he did such. 4. He stated he went in front of Judge Brabender, in which the Erie County Board of Elections did not object. 5. Judge Brabender ruled, in a lengthy statement, all of the reasons (which are on court record) that he and Mr. Hershey should be on the ballot. He went on to request that the Board of Elections does not go on to file any additional appeals because it has been heard in Court twice, and that the reasoning was legally sound. He encouraged the Board to allow the citizens to have more options on the ballot, even though there were troubles in a pandemic time. He went on to add that without Mr. Hershey, there would be no Republican party representation.

Chad Hershey, Co-Petitioner in Court dispute v. the Board of Elections; 5065 Tamaralac Lane, Erie, PA 16505 (Millcreek Township) - Mr. Hershey thanked the Board for meeting to discuss and in doing what's best for the community. He stated that he put a great amount of effort into getting signatures, and was only able to come up with 209. He emphasized the difficulty he had in obtaining signatures while following CDC guidelines, 6 foot distancing, and the care and respect he has for individuals in the community. He is thankful for the

opportunity to be a part of the election, and hopeful that both sides will be represented.

**Approval of Minutes of
Previous Meeting**

NONE

Possible Board Action

Chairwoman Rennie stated that due to the potential legal ramifications and sensitivity of the issues, she called for a motion to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussion.

Mrs. Schauerman moved to go into Executive Session, Mrs. Villella Second the motion.

Ed Palattella of the Erie Times News interrupted the vote, objecting to the Executive Session stating that it is known litigation and all should be privy.

Mr. Andrezeski interrupted the vote in attempt to reiterate Mr. Palatella's point.

Attorney Talarico advised Chairwoman Rennie that the Board was in the middle of a vote, and that the Hearing of the Public is over. He further advised that the vote on the floor should be completed.

Via voice "ay" vote - motioned passed 3 to 0 to go into Executive Session.

Mrs. Rennie explained that individuals on the call would be moved into a waiting room until Executive Session ends and brought back at the time Executive Session is completed.

Possible Executive Session to discuss potential legal ramifications of Judge Brabender's decision to place two candidates on the ballot for Clerk of Records. Those candidates had been rejected by the Board for insufficient signatures on their nomination petition. Members of the public will be put back in the zoom waiting room in such a

Executive Session lasted 12:17pm to 1:05pm.

Mrs. Rennie stated the Board thoroughly discussed the matter on whether to make the appeal to Judge Brabender's ruling and asked for a motion. Mrs. Schauerman motion that the Erie County Board of Elections respectfully appeal the decision of the Honorable Judge Brabender regarding the ruling on this matter. Seconded by Mrs. Villella, and carried in a 3 to 0 vote.

**session, then returned
when the Board returns to
normal session.**

Election Report

**Report will be deferred
until Regular Meeting on
April 6 at 2:30pm.**

**Questions and Comments
from the Board**

No additional comments.

Adjournment

Mrs. Schauerman moved to adjourn at 1:08pm, seconded by Mrs. Villella.