

MINUTES

Erie County Council Board of Elections

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Public is invited to attend.



Mary Rennie, Chairwoman
Terry M. Scutella, Vice-Chairman
Charlie Bayle
Andre Horton
Brian Shank
Ellen Schauerman
Jim Winarski

Erie County Courthouse
140 W Sixth Street Erie, PA 16501
Room 114A

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Rennie at 4:33pm.

Roll Call

Members present: Chairwoman Rennie; Vice-Chairman Scutella; Charlie Bayle; Andre Horton; Brian Shank; Ellen Schauerman;
Also present: Nicole Inan, Tonia Fernandez, and Megan Moore

*Jim Winarski entered the meeting at approximately 5:00 pm.

Hearing of the Public

Freda Tepfer, Erie: Ms. Tepfer presented that a new location may be needed for the 6-9 polling place. She stated that she was a Judge of Election at polling place 6-17 the previous year, and there were problems with the locations being too close to each other, and people being confused about where they should go to vote. She offered several options to Ms. Inan for different locations.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Scutella, seconded by Mr. Shank and carried 6-0 to accept the minutes.

January 18, 2022

Election Report

Ms. Inan read the Election Report which was included in the Agenda.

Ms. Fernandez spoke to the possible vendors for the 2022 Elections. She stated the positive and negative attributes of the vendors chosen as possibilities . Location, experience, transparency, and cost were all factors.

Questions and Comments from the Board

Consideration of Vendors:

Mr. Shank stated he's not a fan of shipping stuff to New York or Ohio. He stated that Erie County tax dollars should be spent in Erie County. He stated the best deal isn't always the best deal.

Mr. Horton questioned Ms. Fernandez about the preference of the Election Office as to a vendor. Ms. Fernandez stated her job was to give the best options to the Board; she did the work to find out other prices, and for them to make the best possible decision. Mr. Horton asked how readily available those prices were. Ms. Fernandez stated she could easily print them.

Electronic Polling Books:

Mr. Horton stated anything that makes the elections more efficient should be supported, but he questioned how much personal information is available on them, and the security of that information with others.

Mrs. Schauerman questioned what the difference was between the poll books used currently, and the information in them, versus the electronic books.

Spontaneous discussion was had between members pertaining to those electronic poll books.

Chairwoman Rennie said they would follow up on the polling location situation, and thanked Ms. Tepfer for her suggestions.

Mr. Winarski entered the meeting.

Possible Consideration of the Board

Selection of an alternate ballot printing company for the 2022 Primary General Election

Mrs. Rennie stated she didn't want to rush through the information.

Mr. Shank stated he wanted some time to look the numbers over.

Mrs. Rennie stated she preferred going with a local vendor, if possible, but there is no second chance to get this right, and that is her concern with elections. She voiced concerns that if the process broke down, if paper was not obtained, if the error rate was such that it wouldn't be certain people would receive ballots or the ballots had errors on them, then we are talking about the fact that people may or may not get to vote, and that is based on the decision that they make. She stated it would be better to err on the side of effectiveness, accuracy, and efficiency, and to eliminate any confusion in the election process. A motion was made by Mr. Scutella, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0 to investigate other options for a printing company.

Potential: Approval of a polling location to replace current location of Erie 6th Ward 9th District

Chairwoman Rennie passed on item B, and said to continue to investigate.

Resolution in Support of Retaining an Election Night Reporting Vendor

A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 7-0 for a resolution in support of retaining an election night reporting vendor.

Resolution in Support of Retaining an Electronic Poll Book Vendor

Chairwoman Rennie stated a lot of new technology is being seen, and there will be continuing and changing technology with each election, but in the long run it will shore up a county's ability to have election results that can be relied upon, and she would support this. Mr. Bayle stated there was a possibility, depending on the process, of using this vendor for election night reporting. A motion was made by Mr. Shank, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0 for a resolution in support of retaining an electronic poll book vendor.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Scutella at 5:23pm.