

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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BOE MEETING MINUTES-9-26-24

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Andre Horton.

Roll Call

Members Present: Chair- Andre Horton, Vice Chair-Chris Drexel, Charlie Bayle, Rock Copeland, Ellen Schauerman, Terry Scutella, and Jim Winarski (zoom).

Staff Present: County Clerk Karen Chillcott, Deputy County Clerk Megan Moore, Attorney Tom Talarico, Director of Elections Tonia Fernandez

Hearing of the Public

Freda Tepfer-City of Erie-Ms. Tepfer stated that she was a current judge of elections. She complimented the elections staff but requested a better system for poll workers. She noted names of people that were no longer interested in helping were not removed in a timely fashion. In addition, she suggested that tablets be available for poll workers as well as for early voters, especially for those that were visually impaired. Finally, Ms. Tepfer spoke on additional training for voter protection and drop off procedures for all workers.

Jerry Servidio-Millcreek-Mr. Servidio remarked on a report in a national newspaper that some representatives at the federal level may not certify the election, dependent on the winner. He asked the Board if they would vote to certify the election no matter who wins. Chairman Horton stated that this was not a question and answer time but for citizens to be heard.

Chairman Horton went on to ask for any other speakers. There were no additional public speakers at that time.

Chairman Horton stated that there would be no issue on the certification of the election, and it would be done.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

August 22, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the August 22 minutes was made by Scutella, seconded by Schauerman, and carried, 7-0.

Yay: All

Nay: None

September 6, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the September 6 minutes was made by Scutella, seconded by Schauerman, and carried, 7-0.

Yay: All
Nay: None

Election Report

Karen Chillcott gave updates on the security system that had been put in place both at the elections office and warehouse. She reported on voter numbers for the county and mailings received by taxpayers that were not sent from the election's office.

Tonia Fernandez spoke on a web-based ballot that was available. <https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/vote/voter-support/accessible-voting/accessible-remote-ballot-marking-solution-for-mail-voting.html>

Chairman Horton asked if a tablet would be possible for early voting in person. Ms. Chillcott clarified how early in person voting was conducted which currently did not involve any voting machines or tablets, but would explore the issue with Department of State.

New Business

Possible Certification of the Ballot for the 2024 General Election A motion to certify the ballot for the 2024 General Election was made by Schauerman, seconded by Drexel, and carried-7-0.
Yay: All
Nay: None

Discussion of Ballot Curing Process for Disabled Voters Attorney Talarico spoke on the curing process and where it currently stands in the court system.

Discussion of Rules for Authorized Representatives during Pre-Canvassing and Canvassing Mail Ballots There was discussion on authorized representatives, and where and how they would be able to fulfill their duties. Drexel spoke on changes that were made with a positive outcome. It was requested that the discussion was tabled so that members could do more research on this topic. Chairman Horton advised that it was not a resolution or an ordinance so no table was necessary, but the Board would revisit this topic at the next meeting.

Questions and Comments from the Board

Adjournment

Chairman Horton moved to adjourn on a motion from Scutella.