

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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BOE MEETING MINUTES 10-24-24

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 P.M. by Chairman Andre Horton.

Roll Call

Members Present: Rock Copeland, Terry Scutella, Chairman Andre Horton, Vice Chairman Chris Drexel, Charlie Bayle, Jim Winarski, Ellen Schauerman
Others Present: County Clerk Karen Chillcott, Deputy County Clerk Megan Moore, Director of Elections Tonia Fernandez, Solicitor Tom Talarico

Hearing of the Public

Freda Tepfer-City of Erie-Ms. Tepfer was requesting a system be put in place for those with disabilities who have submitted incorrect ballots to either have them returned for correction or sent new ballots via US mail. She also stated that she was happy with the current early voting process. She stated that the line moved faster than she had expected. Ms. Tepfer wanted to make clear that each person can only turn in their own ballot unless they have a designated agent form.

Valerie-Crawford County-Speaker stated a brief list of some current problems with the ballots. She also noted that according to the ADA, a person can bring in any number of ballots if each ballot has the designated agent form signed. She has also asked if all the ballots have been mailed as of today? Chair Horton stated that he would address that in the upcoming reports. Valerie asked if there was a curing process and what it was.

Sam Talarico-Harvard Road-Erie County Democratic Party Chair-Mr. Talarico spoke on a concern about out-of state voters who have not received their ballots. His office is suggesting that if they need to mail their ballot, they do so via express mail so that it arrives on time. He said that the election office is doing a great job even with a few problems.

Mary Rennie-City of Erie-Ms. Rennie stated that she believed that the money invested to make the Erie County voting procedure safe and secure was money well spent. She went on to state that there were no volunteers working at the polls as suggested on social media. All workers are trained and paid staff. Ms. Rennie stated her ongoing support for the election process in Erie County.

Jerry-Speaker stated that any time he had a question on the ballot a staff member was quick to get back to him. He was very appreciative.

Election Report

Ms. Chillcott reported on the numbers from the most recent ballot summary. She

went on to thank the staff that has been working hard to make the election happen. Ms. Chillcott spoke on the duplicate ballot concern and that Election IQ has gone through an internal process to identify the issue, make the necessary corrections, and to provide the department with the names of the voters affected.

Attorney Talarico stated that he got many phone calls from people and it was obvious to him that most were only getting pieces of information. He requested that people wait until Election IQ had time to investigate and the Board had time to respond.

Chairman Horton stated that he was made aware of the concern late on Friday. He went on to say that what happened has been identified and contained. He proclaimed that every vote that comes in legally will be counted. He also said that he was very proud of the way everything was handled.

Ms. Chillcott described the problems that Election IQ had with the ballots in greater detail. She then went on to discuss the concern for the missing ballots and how USPS was involved. She spoke on the plan that was put into place to help voters get their ballots in a timely fashion.

Tonia Fernandez spoke about the record number of early voters. She mentioned that due to this number, some of the other work does not get done until after hours, but it is still getting done. She also discussed some potential changes to the layout of the election area in the upcoming months for additional equipment. Chair Horton concluded by saying that he was proud of the work that was being done and the staff that are working so hard.

New Business

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| <p>Resolution 6 of 2024
 "Repeal of Resolution Nos. 12, 2022 and 16, 2022 Notice to Cure Procedures"</p> | <p>A reading of Resolution 6 of 2024 was offered by Chairman Horton. Discussion was led by Attorney Talarico telling the Board that this was procedural to keep up with changes in the law. In addition, Attorney Talarico stated that he has put new resolutions in their place that are updated and conform with current law. Chairman Horton asked for discussion. None noted. So moved- Schauerma, seconded by Drexel. Motion carried, 7-0
 Yea: All
 Nay: None</p> |
| <p>Resolution 7 of 2024
 "Disposition of Technically Deficient Ballots/Cure Procedures"</p> | <p>A reading of Resolution 7 of 2024 was offered by Chairman Horton. So moved- Drexel, seconded by Schauerma. Motion carried, 7-0
 Yea: All
 Nay: None</p> |
| <p>Resolution 8 of 2024
 "Repeal of Resolution No. 3, 2020 Notice to Cure"</p> | <p>A reading of Resolution 8 of 2024 was offered by Chairman Horton. So moved- Schauerma, seconded by Drexel. Motion carried, 7-0
 Yea: All</p> |

Procedures"

Nay: None

Resolution 9 of 2024 "Rules Regarding the Conduct at Polling Places; Pre-canvass and Canvassing; Watchers and Representatives"

A reading of Resolution 9 of 2024 was offered by Chairman Horton. Prior to the vote, Drexel requested a brief discussion. Solicitor Talarico spoke on the updates that were made to the election's office in the name of clarity and safety. The call for the vote followed. So moved- Schauerma, seconded by Drexel. Motion carried, 7-0
Yea: All
Nay: None

Questions and Comments from the Board

No questions or comments at this time.

Adjournment

Chairman Horton moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 P.M.