

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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2-11-25 BoE MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

Chairman Drexel called the meeting to order at 4:29 P.M.

Roll Call

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

Also present: Karen Chillcott, Megan Moore, Jay Stranahan, and Tonia Fernandez

Hearing of the Public

No member of the public asked to speak.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Copeland motioned to accept the minutes of the previous meetings. This was seconded by Mrs. Schauerman and carried 7-0.

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

November 25, 2024

December 10, 2024

January 14, 2025

New Business

Possible Approval of Resolution 1 of 2025 to Award the RFP for the Ballot Printing and Mailing for the Primary and General Elections

Ms. Chillcott stated that the RFP (Request for Proposal) committee independently scored the proposals. She noted that two proposals were received and the committee unanimously chose one proposal over the other. She reported the award should go to Phoenix Graphics for the ballot printing and mailing for the 2025 General and Primary Elections.

Chairman Drexel opened the floor for discussion.

Mrs. Shauerman asked for the location of the company and Ms. Chillcott replied Rochester, New York.

Mr. Copeland asked who was on the committee. Ms. Chillcott answered herself, the Deputy Clerk and the Elections Director.

Mr. Copeland questioned if referrals from other clients were received. Ms. Chillcott reported that Ms. Fernandez spoke directly to other clients of Phoenix Graphics at a conference she attended and received good reviews.

Ms. Schauerma motioned to approve the Phoenix Graphics bid and accept their proposal for the 2025 Election year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scutella and passed 7-0.

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

**Questions and Comments
from the Board**

Chairman Drexel called for any other questions or comments.

Mr. Bayle stated he was glad that Attorney Stranahan was present to assist. He questioned what was legal, ethical, and appropriate in accordance with a member of the Board of Elections openly campaigning for candidates on a ballot.

Mr. Stranahan stated that he would speak to Mr. Bayle on the matter privately. Mr. Copeland stated that he had done some research on the topic and was not a lawyer, but the state statute only said that you cannot be a member while running for office and referenced an incident in Allegheny County.

Attorney Stranahan stated he thought it was the County Code or the County Charter, which prohibited an Election Board member from also running for office.

Mr. Bayles questioned again if members could campaign for other candidates on the ballot, and did it create conflict. He stated he was asked by another and needed clarification.

Attorney Stranahan stated he talk with Mr. Bayle after the meeting.

Mr. Copeland made a motion to go into executive session at 4:35pm, which was seconded by Mr. Horton.

Adjournment

Mr. Copeland moved to end the executive session at 4:42pm, which was seconded by Mr. Scutella.

Mr. Copeland moved to adjourn at 4:43pm.