

**BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2023 – 11:00 A.M.**

Michael S. Rivera, Chair
Christian Y. Leinbach, Vice Chair
Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor
Cody L. Kauffman, First Assistant County Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER- 11:00 A.M.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Board approved the Election Board meeting minutes from January 19, 2023, as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion and Approval of Compensation for Election Day Rovers and Overnight Shift Workers

Anne Norton, Director of Election Services, explained that any County employees that work the 8-hour overnight shift on Election Day will be paid their regular hours for Election Day, but will work the overnight shift instead of their regular shift. They will then be off the following day as well.

Norton said elections is planning to utilize 20 rovers for the primary election. Rovers' shifts run from roughly 6 a.m. until 9 p.m., similar to pollworkers. Management/confidential employees that serve as rovers get paid for their regular hours for that day and receive a \$200 debit card.

On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, the board approved the compensation for Election Day Rovers and overnight shift workers.

2. Authorize the Appointment of Jeff Bukowski as Special Counsel to the Board of Elections to be assigned work by the Solicitor's Office

Commissioner Rivera explained that the Election Board is bringing in outside counsel to assist Cody Kauffman with the solicitor work for Elections Services. Kauffman serves as the First Assistant Solicitor for the County and has other responsibilities beyond just elections. Rivera said the County will be looking into hiring in-house counsel to specifically represent elections and handle Right-to-Know requests.

Commissioner Leinbach noted that Attorney Bukowski represents the County on the dated/undated envelope litigation that is ongoing. He emphasized that

Bukowski's appointment is a temporary step until in-house counsel can be hired and trained.

On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, the board authorized the appointment of Jeff Bukowski as Special Counsel to the Board of Elections, to be assigned work by the Solicitor's Office.

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGARDING CURRENT ELECTION-RELATED ISSUES

Commissioner Rivera noted that this would be the last meeting for the current Election Board, due to the upcoming election. The new board will begin presiding next week.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Jeffrey Wolfe, of Brecknock Township, asked if the Berks County utilizes Konnech, Inc. software to manage and store pollworker and other election-related data. Wolfe expressed concerns related to Konnech, including its CEO being arrested and ensuing lawsuits. He said he believes there are growing election integrity concerns with technology when third parties are involved.

Cody Kauffman confirmed that the software the County utilizes is in no way related to Konnech Inc.

ADJOURNMENT - 11:17 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,


Anne Norton, Election Board Chief Clerk