

**BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 2022 – 11:00 A.M.**

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

CALL TO ORDER- 11:00 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes for the October 6, 2022 Election Board meeting as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Jeff Wolfe of Brecknock Township – Mr. Wolfe spoke about equal treatment for voters who wish to cure their ballot. Also, he believes that all election workers should be subject to the same oath as poll workers. Lastly, he questioned what recourse a voter has if they are victims of Identification theft, and someone is voting on their behalf.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approval of Payment for Rovers and Election Day Personnel

On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, the Board approved \$200.00 base rate for rovers, related election day personnel, and regular shift for County employees. This includes \$75.00 payment for rover training, and \$30.00 for training for interpreters and related election day personnel.

2. Discussion of Dropbox Security Cameras and Signage

On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, the board approved, with a 2 to 1 vote, adding security cameras and signage on current and future drop boxes pursuant approval and compliance from the Chief Operations Officer, Chief Information Officer, Solicitor's Office, and Director of Contracts & Procurement. The Board's vote also stipulated the cost of the cameras and signage should not exceed \$10,000. Commissioner Barnhardt opposed, stating it is an unnecessary burden and expense.

3. Undated Ballot Update

Attorney Jeff Bukowski spoke on recent undated ballot litigation. Mr. Bukowski expressed that it may be worthwhile for the County to segregate undated and wrongfully dated ballots. Commissioner Leinbach agreed, but also stated that the

law should provide more clarity, as legal unclarity does not build confidence among voters.

The Board agreed to vote on this at the next meeting.

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

Commissioner Barnhardt provided an update on election goals for the upcoming 2022 General Election. Commissioner Barnhardt spoke on several areas where the Election Services office and the Board of Elections have implemented new policies and procedures, including a communications plan for election day which provides a separate public phone line and poll worker phone line.

Another area of improvement are the rover regions, which have gone from 10 to 20 rover regions, thereby providing our rovers improved access to polling locations on election day. Finally, Commissioner Barnhardt thanked the Election Services staff and urged the public to be respectful as the staff is working very hard.

Commissioner Barnhardt and Commissioner Rivera also thanked the Election Services staff for all their hard work.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Debbie Noel of Robeson Township commented on the lack of cell service at some polling locations around the county. She also requested signs be placed at the drop boxes asking voters to confirm their ballots are signed and dated prior to depositing into the drop box.

ADJOURNMENT – 11:48 A.M.