

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ray Lembke called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Director Carney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call

Ray Lembke – Chair – Yes

Rick Combs – Yes

Gregg Conrad – Yes

Richard Grant – Yes

Also present were Director Julia Carney, Deputy Director Chris Dennison and Becky Rudd – Clerk taking record.

III. Other Attendees – Kenning Henning – SOS Liaison

IV. Approval of Agenda

2020-19 – Mr. Conrad made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

V. Public Test for March 17, 2020 Primary Election

At 10:02 a.m., the Board recessed while Mr. Grant and Mr. Conrad observed the test deck run through the 850-DS ballot scanner.

At 10:59 a.m., the Board returned from recess.

Mr. Combs read the results from the newly run test deck report while Mr. Conrad compared it to the control sheet. The Board found the results matched and that the DS-850 ballot scanner was counting accurately.

2020-20 – Mr. Grant made the motion to accept the results of the Public Test. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

VI. Public Participation – none

VII. Approval of Minutes

2020-21 – Mr. Conrad made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2020 regular board meeting. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

2020-22 – Mr. Grant made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2020, special board meeting for consideration of a vendor agreement. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion.

Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Abstain

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

VIII. Approval of Bills as of February 26, 2020

2020-23 – Mr. Conrad made the motion to accept and pay the bills as of February 26, 2020.

Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

IX. Review of Election Equipment Allocation (Directive 2019-27)

Director Carney advised the Board that they are required to review the allocation of election equipment within thirty days of the election.

2020-24 – Mr. Conrad made the motion to allocate one DS 200 optical scanner per precinct and one ExpressVote per polling location, with the exception of Goshen High School and Sem Villa, which will each receive two ExpressVotes. Mr. Combs seconded the motion.

Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

X. Director's Report

A. Status of Election

a. Total Registered Voters – 138,645 to date (2016 – 138,131)

b. Absentee Report

As of 2-21-2020 we sent out 54 UOCAVA ballots (13 by mail, 41 by email, and 6 have been returned)

Non-UOCAVA voters:

276 voters in person

2,949 absentee ballot applications received (257 were invalid and sent notices for a new application)

2,692 valid applications (943 were Democrat, 1,521 were Republican, 228 were non-partisan)

c. Nursing Homes

We started voting the nursing homes this week and will finish on March 10. We vote over 10 nursing homes in the county. We are going to change the procedure and mail ballots to the voters in the nursing homes and/or visit the nursing homes as needed; some of the voters are able and prefer to vote themselves. One nursing home did not pursue the voting with their voters because the resident did not pick a party ballot (selected an issues only), so the applications were not valid (no issue on their ballot). The Board asked Deputy Director Dennison to follow up on the matter.

d. Poll Worker/PEO Training

We have had poll worker training since the beginning of February and have a last minute training scheduled for March. Chairman Lembke stated that he attended the training, Stephanie and Lora did a fantastic job. The Director gave the Board an additional list of PEO's for the Board to approve (Democrat and Republican workers).

2020-25 – Mr. Combs made the motion to accept the Democrat and Republican list of PEO's as recommended by the Director and Deputy Director for employment with the Clermont County Board of Elections for the March 17, 2020 Primary Election. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon discussion, the Director brought to the Board's attention that Democrat worker Christopher Meyers has had a recent criminal history (misdemeanor). Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

e. Early Voting – Saturdays, March 7 & 14 and Sunday, March 15

Early voting has starting and we are open until 5:00 p.m. this week and next week, the following week we are open until 7:00 p.m. Weekend hours are Saturday March 7 & 14 (8-4 pm), Sunday March 15 (1-5 pm).

f. Part-Time Staff

The part-time staff is now in and working since early voting has started. The mail-house has helped with the staffing; it is hard to find people to only work for six weeks.

g. WE ARE NR

The Director advised the Board of a phone call she received from a voter in the New Richmond School District. The voter received a mailer from WE ARE NR, a committee supporting the New Richmond School levy. This committee sent out a mailer to absentee voters that received a ballot. The mailer encouraged the voter to return their voted ballot in the committee's enclosed

stamped envelope addressed to the Clermont County Board of Elections. If a voter does not use our ID envelope to return their ballot, the ballot will not be counted. The prosecutor's office contacted the committee about this problem and the committee posted on their website to use only the materials that were supplied by the board of elections to return the ballot. We posted on our and the county's page to advise voters of this issue and how to properly return their voted ballot.

h. Observers

We have received Notice of Appointments from the Republican Party for observers on Election Day. Two observers for in person absentee voting and one in the board office and at the precincts on Election Day.

i. ES&S Election Support – on site March 16-18

Logic and accuracy testing is scheduled for February 27 & 28 at the Red Barn. Our election support will be here March 16 – 18.

Mr. Conrad asked if we are using the same delivery company, the Director advised that we are and deployment is scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, prior to Election Day.

Mr. Combs inquired if all notices were mailed out regarding polling place changes and they were. Chairman Lembke asked if we knew anything regarding the sale of the old New Richmond School that we use as a polling place. The Director advised the building had not yet been sold, they are opening sealed bids, but it was agreed that we can use the building for this election.

XI. Deputy Director's Report

A. Mail House Update

The mail house is going well. The uploads to the secure FTP site are being accepted and voters are receiving their ballots. We were on schedule for uploads twice a week, but last week per SeaChange, we sent more uploads than scheduled. Regarding the issue with the contract over first class mail and bulk rate mail, the cost saving that Deputy Director Dennison quoted the Board originally was at the bulk rate-non first class. We will still be saving money because we are getting a bulk rate for the first class mail.

The language in the contract was changed to first class mail and the Director signed the contract. The mail house mails the ballots the same day we send a file.

We were advised from a voter that his son's ballot was mailed to the home and not his college address as requested. Both addresses are on the file sent to the mail house and when the mail house mapped/processed the data they were reversed, 254 voters were affected. We called the Secretary of State's office and spoke to Matt Tlachac. After discussing the issue, it was decided to mail another ballot that day to the correct address. We created a notice explaining the problem that was inserted in the voting materials. The mail house identified the second mailing envelope to distinguish it from the first mailed ballot. We programed the mail ballot verifier to not accept these ballots, staff will manually updated those ballots.

B. Security Directive

Our county was 100% compliant with the Secretary of State's Office regarding their security requirements.

Chairman Lembke inquired about the new logins for the board members. Director Carney advised they could do that on Election Day.

XII. Next Meeting Dates

March 17, 2020 at 6:30 am – 7:30 pm, Primary Election Day meeting.

March 30, 2020 at 9:00 am – Opening of Official Canvass.

April 7, 2020 at 10:00 am – Certification of Official Canvass.

Recounts (if any) – Shall take place not earlier than Monday April 13, 2020 and not later than Friday, April 17, 2020.


2020-26 – Mr. Combs made the motion to open the polls at 6:30 a.m. on March 17, 2020 and that the board members meet at 11:00 a.m., or a time designated by the Director to follow through with the normal day. Mr. Grant seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

- Mr. Combs – Yes
- Mr. Conrad – Yes
- Mr. Grant – Yes
- Mr. Lembke – Yes


XIII. Motion to Adjourn

2020-27 – At 11:59 a.m., Mr. Conrad made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Grant seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

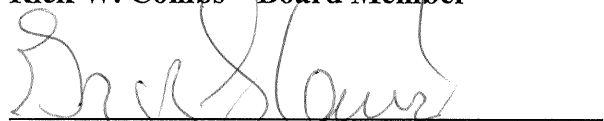
- Mr. Combs – Yes
- Mr. Conrad – Yes
- Mr. Grant – Yes
- Mr. Lembke – Yes



Raymond W. Lembke – Board Chairman



Rick W. Combs – Board Member



Gregg L. Conrad – Board Member



Rick Grant – Board Member

Date March 30, 2020

