

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ray Lembke called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. Mr. Grant led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call

Ray Lembke – Chair – Yes

Rick Combs – Absent

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 – none.

Chairman Lembke thanked the Director, Deputy Director, and staff for the extraordinary efforts they had to engage in late into the evening last night under these unusual circumstances.

IV. Approval of Agenda

2020-30 – Mr. Grant made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Absent

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

V. Public Participation – none

VI. Director's Report

Directive 2020-06

Director Carney discussed Directive 2020-06, which puts the Primary Election on hold/suspended until June 2, 2020. The Sheriff's Department went out early and posted signs at the polling locations advising the polls are closed. We are retrieving the voting equipment from the polls on the same scheduled days of pick up. The voting location managers were contacted to return the voting supplies today. We are providing absentee ballot applications. The phone message states how to receive an absentee application. We are anticipating additional information from the Secretary of State. Chairman Lembke asked to communicate our thanks from the Board to the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Grant suggested asking the Secretary of State if they are going to reimburse us for the additional costs for deployment and redeployment. Chairman Lembke inquired if we will have problems getting back into the schools to vote and the old school building in New Richmond. Director Carney is not sure if it will be, another problem is payment of the poll workers. She recommends paying the \$35 for the training class. Chairman Lembke is in favor of checking with Columbus to get funds to pay them for today and June 2, they are entitled to some compensation. Director Carney stated we have additional costs for the tent, janitorial, and more, we might have to go to the commissioners for additional funds. We did account for an additional election but they are not typically the entire county. We hope we do not have to retrain poll workers and can still use the ballots. She plans to continue to use the mail house for absentee ballots.

Absentee update

UOCAVA applications:

78 received – 73 valid, 5 invalid

40 returned (30 – Democrat, 10 – Republican)

Non-UOCAVA:

5,658 – voted in person

3,761 – mailed and returned (1,186 – Democrat, 2,294 – Republican, 281 – issues only)

The Ohio Attorney General issued a notice regarding open meetings, allowing during the declared emergency to have/allow meetings that are not in person, as long as they are open to the public and allow everyone to hear and speak. This is an anomaly.

It was difficult to contact the poll workers and rovers last night. Some board of elections are using auto calling and that is something we need to look into for the future. Hamilton County uses one.

Some county departments are closing to the general public. Our staff has been exposed to a lot of people and people are still coming in, the Director is concerned for their health and well being. Chairman Lembke asked if there is a way we can close this office to the public, and can we still proceed with work for the postponed election. The Director stated a lot can be done by phone, we can have applications and have a place to drop them off, we have a small mail box we could use. Chairman Lembke is concerned to leave a box out overnight, if absentee ballots are dropped off it must be a secure box or brought in each night. We need a contingency plan if we are required to have a drop off for ballots for the November election. The Director added the problem is where to have it. We might have to go back to the village to have a dedicated lane open on Spring Street. The Director will work with the Sheriff's Department and get their recommendation, hopefully it will be for just one day. Mr. Conrad suggested getting three or four options and try to have it in place for June if possible. Most counties have drop off boxes, but we should check with other counties that do not.

Mr. Conrad is concerned about the well being of the staff and if the Governor says we have to be closed we need to be ready to do it, he wants to be pro-active. Chairman Lembke added that if we do close, we need a contingency plan and communicate with the Secretary of State. He also would like to know what is going on regionally and if this is something the Secretary of State decides for all counties.

The Director would like to compensate the staff with the usual half a day off after the election.

Mr. Conrad agrees that something needs to be done for the staff for what they have been through so far with this election. Mr. Grant would also like to compensate the Director and Deputy Director.

2020-31 – Mr. Conrad made the motion to follow the previous protocol for a typical election to allow the staff to be off half a day, in split shifts. Mr. Grant seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Absent

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

VII. Deputy Director's Report

Deputy Director Dennison received a call from the mail house as soon as the news was reported that the election was postponed and advised Mr. Dennison that they were on board with processing the next round of absentee ballots. We need to make sure we have enough of the proper supplies. The Director stated that the ES&S election night support had reported that SeaChange received the contract for the state of Maryland for printing their absentee ballots, she was not sure what office was doing the printing. The Deputy Director feels good about the mail house. The problem with not getting the ballots timely is a problem with the post office, not the mail house. We received a high percentage of the ballots being scanned through the post office for the two batches of problem mailings. Every post office might not scan the mail in and out. Chairman Lembke asked if there is a greater risk of the mail house delivering the mail to Dalton Street or us taking it to Batavia post office. Some Boards stop using the mail house approximately one week before the election.

Chairman Lembke would like the Director to track the additional expenses being incurred for the postponed election and at some point go to the commissioners and the Secretary of State.

VIII. Upcoming Meetings

March 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., Regular Monthly Board Meeting

April 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., Regular Monthly Board Meeting

May 27, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., Regular Monthly Board Meeting,

Mr. Lembke asked if someone could teach the Board to use their new email, after last night we need to have it working. Director Carney advised the Board they could work on it after the meeting.

IX. Motion to Adjourn

2020-32 – At 12:04 p.m., Mr. Conrad made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Grant seconded the motion.

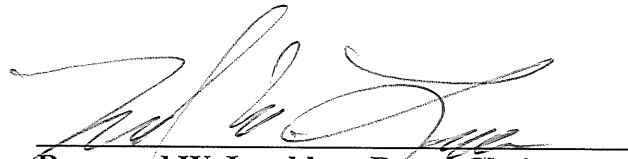
Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Absent

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

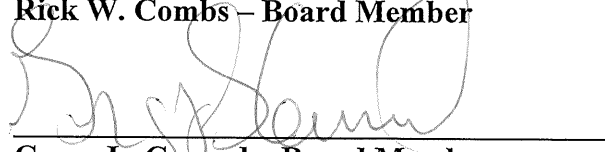
Mr. Lembke – Yes



Raymond W. Lembke – Board Chairman



Rick W. Combs – Board Member



Gregg L. Conrad – Board Member



Rick Grant – Board Member

Date March 20, 2020

