

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ray Lembke called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Combs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call

Ray Lembke – Chair – Yes

Rick Combs – Yes – by phone

Gregg Conrad – Yes

Richard Grant – Yes

Also present were Director Julia Carney, Deputy Director Chris Dennison and Becky Rudd – Clerk taking record. Mr. Combs attended the meeting by phone conference.

III. Other Attendees – none.

IV. COVID-19

Director Carney addressed the Board regarding COVID-19 and the way many places are doing business. She provided the Board a summary of the changes, due to Covid-19, in Clermont County departments and agencies, many are closed to the public and doing business over the phone, internet, and by appointment only. The Sheriff's Department is by appointment only and they are doing a medical screening prior to entering.

She is requesting the Board to allow us to operate by phone, mail, email, provide typical forms at the door, and have a drop box by the door. We will bring in the drop-off box at the close of business hours. This will limit our contact with the general public.

Mr. Combs inquired about how long she anticipates doing this. Reviewing the county agencies there is no time limit at this time. Chairman Lembke added that we are an extension of the Secretary of State but we want to be mindful of the perception of the stress and perceived health risk of our staff.

The Director advised the Board that several Boards of Election have also taken these measures to close to the public. Mr. Grant stated the courts are showing May 1st or thirty days. Mr. Combs thinks we can make this move, let everyone know what is going on and review it every thirty days and see when we need to change it back. We should have a review date and decide if we should extend it or not.

2020-33 – Mr. Conrad made the motion because of the health crisis that we are now finding ourselves in that we close our doors to the public except by appointment, this is to protect our staff and the electorate and that we review this particular proposal at our regular board meeting in April and make this subsequent to any directive from the Secretary of State, and provide any forms for the public so they don't have to come into the office. Mr. Grant seconded the motion. Upon discussion, Mr. Conrad added that we still have necessary people that will need to enter the office. Chairman Lembke added/amended to the motion to allow the Director and Deputy Director the discretion to allow if those that are essential to the Board or this office to enter as deemed necessary. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

Mr. Conrad added that we should be prepared for an all-mail election. Director Carney stated that we have been in contact with the mail house and they are ordering more paper and supplies, we will stay in contact and continue to use them for mail out absentees. We are not issuing ballots at this time, but we are continuing to accept absentee ballots.

V. Motion to Adjourn

2020-34 – At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Conrad made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Grant seconded the motion.

Upon roll call:

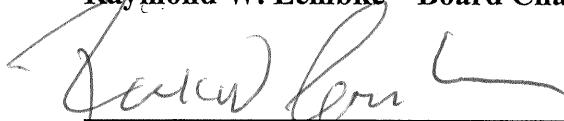
Mr. Combs – Yes

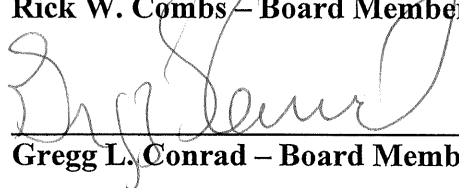
Mr. Conrad – Yes


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