

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ray Lembke called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. Mr. Conrad 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 Administrative Assistant Cherie Wilson

III. Motion to Adopt the Agenda as Presented

2020-127 – Mr. Grant made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

IV. Other Attendees – Mary Lynne Birck, Legal Counsel

V. Polling Location Changes

The board discussed the letter from Chief Riley of the Batavia Central Joint firehouse stating that they could no longer serve as a polling location due to the risk of jeopardizing their pharmaceutical license. Sharon Shields from the Ohio Board of Pharmacy (OH BOP) had inspected the Batavia firehouse and told Ms. Birck that the firehouse license required a barricade to prevent the public from unfettered access to drugs; allowing the public in would compromise this. A remedy would be to have a paramedic there for the entire time PEOs were there, or to physically change the building structure.

The board discussed how to reconcile the safety concerns and OH BOP rules vs. the mandatory language in the state statute requiring public and government buildings to make space available for voting: ORC 3501.29(A) says that the controlling authority shall make buildings supported by taxation available for elections. The board appreciates the use of the firehouse as a polling location for many prior elections, and does not want to get the firehouse caught between us and the OH BOP. However, board members expressed concerns that moving this polling location would set a precedent for other firehouses, schools, and public buildings – not only in Clermont County, but potentially across the entire state. Due to the imminent state deadline for polling location changes, Ms. Birck contacted Chief Riley on behalf of the board. She arranged an immediate visit for the board and directors to view the exact configuration of the firehouse as a polling location.

2020-128 – At 4:36 pm, Mr. Conrad made the motion to recess until the board can tour the firehouse.

Mr. Grant seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

2020-129 – At 5:11 pm, Mr. Grant made the motion for the board to come out of recess.

Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

Following the board's visit to the firehouse, Ms. Birck said that Chief Riley will move the fire trucks out of the bays; we can use the firehouse bays for the November election with an escort for the PEOs to use the restrooms. The board discussed how to resolve conflicts between the 3501.29(A) statute and other mandates such as OH BOP rules and pandemic-related executive orders. Mr. Grant suggested a letter to the Secretary of State regarding the impact the board's decision could have as a statewide

precedent for the use of public buildings; he stated that the Secretary of State should make it clear for all government locations.

The board concluded that no motion is needed regarding the polling location. Mr. Grant would like to thank the Director and Deputy Director for their efforts in reviewing polling locations, and for the members who went personally to see the firehouse.

VI. Retention Schedule

Director Carney distributed the Secretary of State's updated retention schedule for the board's review. Mr. Combs asked if the document had changed. Director Carney replied that nothing changed; the state added some items including Safe-at-Home documents. Becky Rudd is the record retention officer. Mr. Lembke asked about the "Origin Date"; that is the year the state first started requiring us to retain that type of record.

2020-129 – Mr. Combs made the motion to accept the new Secretary of State Record Retention Schedule for Boards of Election.

Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

Director Carney asked the board about scheduling a special meeting for Tuesday, October 20 for the public test. Mr. Combs suggested some alternate dates that week; Director Carney will check the availability of our ES&S support for an alternate date.

Director Carney reported that we had applied for a new grant from the Center for Tech and Civic Life available to local boards of elections; we were granted \$75,422.50. The new CTCL grant is less restrictive than the Federal HAVA and CARES grants. The grant lists specific uses, but does not have the restriction of three bids, etc. We will use some of the grant money for the mail house and for additional shelving for the increased absentee voting volume.

Mr. Conrad asked about the delays on the last day of the April primary. Director Carney said the issue was the early voting volume on the last day, and the last-minute mail that came in that day. We also had limited staff in April due to COVID. Additional staff have been trained to run ballots for this election.

Mr. Conrad also asked about the secure location for keeping ballots; they are being stored under double lock in the absentee room, which has been rearranged with new shelving in anticipation of the increased volume for this election.

Mr. Lembke asked about early voting lines. Director Carney has been in touch with Captain Kamphaus, who provided a diagram of the planned voting lines. We will place cones so the public does not block driveways; Director Carney will stay in communication with Chief Deputy Stratton about the hours when deputies are needed. Mr. Conrad asked about the voters who will be driving in to drop off ballots; during the early voting weekends, we plan to staff the drop box so voters can stay in their vehicles and hand their ballots through their window to the person collecting them.

The board discussed the expected turnout for early voting and Election Day. We expect longer lines than in 2016, because of the fear associated with this election. Director Carney said that we have already received over 32,000 ballot requests, and already sent over 24,000 to the mail house to be printed; we are currently up to date with the incoming requests. The high turnout for absentee and early voting this year may reduce the demand on the polling locations. We may still have PEO cancellations, so having more volume handled before Election Day is good.

VII. Upcoming Calendar

Monday, October 5, 2020 – voter registration deadline, office open until 9:00 pm.

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 - early in-person voting begins

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. – regular monthly board meeting

VIII. Motion to Adjourn

2020-130 – At 5:42 p.m., Mr. Grant made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion.

Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

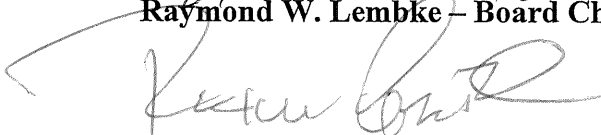
Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes



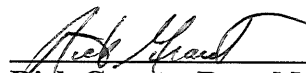
Raymond W. Lembke – Board Chairman



Rick W. Combs – Board Member



Gregg L. Conrad – Board Member



Rick Grant – Board Member

Date 10/21/2020

Cherie Wilson

From: Cherie Wilson
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 1:10 PM
To: 'legals@clermontsun.com'
Subject: Special Board Meeting 9/30 at 4pm
Attachments: 2020 Sep 30 - special mtg Batavia polling location.doc

Jamie,

Please be advised that the Clermont County Board of Board of Elections has scheduled a special Board meeting for tomorrow 9/30 at 4:00 p.m.

Also, FYI, Becky Rudd has turned over the board meeting notices to me. She will still be in contact as we need to place paid ads in the paper.

My direct phone number is 732-7485 if you need to contact me.

Cherie Wilson, Administrative Support Specialist
Clermont County Board of Elections
76 S. Riverside Dr.
Batavia, OH 45103

Clermont County Board of Elections Notice of Special Board Meeting Date

The Clermont County Board of Elections has scheduled a Special Board Meeting on September 30, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss moving the Batavia C polling location and approve a new records retention schedule.

The meeting will be held at the Board Office, 76 S. Riverside Dr., Batavia, 45103.

Ray Lembke – Chairman
Julia Carney – Director