

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ray Lembke called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Grant 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 Stephanie Hemmer-Haight, Deputy Director Chris Dennison and Administrative Assistant Cherie Wilson.

III. Motion to Adopt the Agenda as Presented

2021-117 – Mr. Combs 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 – Kenny Henning (SOS Liaison)

V. Public participation – none

VI. Approval of Minutes

- August 16, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting
- August 23, 2021 – Special Board Meeting – Certification of Write-In Candidates
- September 1, 2021 – Special Board Meeting – Referendum Withdrawal

2021-118 – Mr. Grant made the motion to approve all three sets of minutes. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

VII. Approval of Bills as of September 29, 2021

Mr. Combs asked for clarification of the Graphic Village expense. Per Director Hemmer-Haight, they prepared the National Change of Address and Supplemental mailing required by the Secretary of State. Their invoice includes postage as well as material and labor costs.

2021-119 – Mr. Conrad made the motion to approve payment of the bills as of September 29, 2021.

Mr. Grant seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

VIII. Director's report

A. Campaign Finance Referrals to the Ohio Elections Commission

Director Hemmer Haight reported the following late filings for the 2021 semiannual reports that were due on July 30, 2021:

Citizens for West Clermont Schools – Did not file until August 10, 2021.

Vote For Our Kids – Williamsburg Schools – Did not file until August 18, 2021.

WE ARE NR – New Richmond Schools – Did not file until August 17, 2021.

2021-120 – Mr. Conrad made the motion to refer the three groups to the Ohio Elections Commission.

Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

B. Office Hours

1. Registration

The last day to register or change a voter's name and/or address for the November 2021 General Election is Monday, October 4. The office will be open until 9:00 p.m. per the SOS.

2. Early In Person Voting Hours

Tuesday, October 5 – Friday, October 8	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 12 – Friday, October 15	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday, October 18 – Friday, October 22	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday, October 25 – Friday, October 29	8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 30	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 31	1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday, November 1	8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

3. Staffing

Director Hemmer-Haight indicated that we are bringing in some of the regular part-time staff to assist with the phones and absentee voting. We will use them as needed, depending on workload, and may release them early some days.

Mr. Combs asked if we will use the mail house for absentee ballots. Deputy Director Dennison replied that we are still under contract with Seachange; our costs will remain the same except for the USPS postal rate increase. The Seachange contract ends after this election, so we will solicit bids in 2022.

IX. Deputy Director's report

A. Requests from organizations and individuals concerned with election integrity

Deputy Director Dennison described continued inquiries from organizations and individuals regarding election integrity. He has a five-page document of written questions and answers to one organization, and Mr. Henning has provided a list of talking points from the SOS office. The board and the directors discussed drafting a white paper of responses to common questions to maintain a consistent message from the board members, the staff and the SOS. Deputy Director Dennison will create a draft for the board's review; we can schedule a special meeting if appropriate.

Mr. Henning suggested forwarding one of the inquiries to the SOS data analysis team for review; a voter provided a list of alleged vote totals from counties in Ohio that were apparently derived algorithmically by Dr. Douglas Frank. His purported totals for Clermont County do not resemble any of our unofficial, official or final audited results.

B. Election Update

- logic and accuracy testing – completed 9/24/2021
- part-time employees started 9/20/2021

Deputy Director Dennison reported that we completed three days of Logic and Accuracy testing; Crystal White, the recently hired PEO clerk, was involved as part of her training. All of the equipment is ready for early voting next week.

C. Ballots

- Test Deck delivered September 15
- Balotar setup complete
- Expected delivery of Election Day ballots – no later than Thursday, October 21

Deputy Director Dennison noted that the test deck had been delivered; we have confirmed that it contains the required 1,221 ballots, and have secured it until the Public Test. The Balotar computers have been configured and tested for ballot-on-demand printing.

Mr. Combs asked how many stations would be available for early voting. Director Hemmer-Haight replied that we plan to operate three stations, depending on voter turnout.

D. Absentee Ballot Requests

- Military and Overseas Requests (UOCAVA)
Began Friday, September 17, – (7 as of 9/17, 9 sent out as of September 28)
- Absentee ballot requests: - mailing begins October 5th – (30 days prior to election)
691 requested to date (as of September 28)

Mr. Conrad asked if we are still required to mail absentee ballots the Saturday before Election Day. The directors confirmed that the law has not changed; we must mail ballots for any applications received by 10/30 at noon, regardless of the likelihood that the voters will actually receive them in time to return them by the deadline. Mr. Conrad suggested creating a prepared statement to caution voters who request ballots after a certain date. Mr. Lembke suggested using the wording from the SOS statement advocating a legislative change of the Saturday noon deadline.

Mr. Combs requested an update on the new website. Deputy Director Dennison indicated that he is working with Revize on the redesign. Having encountered some unexpected issues and additional bureaucracy with the new ISD leadership, we do not expect the website to be available for the November election.

X. Executive Session

2021-121 – At 10:41 a.m., Mr. Conrad made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss compensation of a public employee or official, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §121.22(G)(1). Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

The four board members, plus the director and deputy director were present at the executive session.

2021-122 – At 11:07 a.m., Mr. Combs made the motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

The board reported that the only topic discussed in the executive session was employee compensation.

2021-123 – Mr. Conrad made the motion to increase the Precinct Election Official pay for Election Day from \$120 to \$130 per day, and to increase their training pay from \$35 to \$50. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon discussion, Director Hemmer-Haight indicated that we have more difficulty keeping poll workers due to the long day and the COVID pandemic. Due to the Fair Labor Act, the Secretary of State has increased the maximum PEO pay rate. Mr. Henning, SOS Regional Liaison, stated that, subsequent to the SOS increasing the maximum rate, his boards have all been making similar increases. Mr. Combs clarified that the increased PEO pay would be effective beginning in 2022. Upon roll call:

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

Director Hemmer-Haight requested that the board consider a pay increase for Krista Fields, a part-time worker who has assisted with early voting for multiple elections. She was unable to work in 2020 for personal reasons, so she missed the pay increase that some of the other returning workers received.

2021-124 – Mr. Grant made the motion to increase the pay for Krista Fields, a part-time worker, from \$11 per hour to \$12 per hour. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

XI. Upcoming Events and Meeting Dates

- Monday, October 4 – close of registration (office open until 9:00 p.m.)
- Tuesday, October 5 – early in-person voting begins
- Wednesday, October 27 at 9:00 a.m. – Regular Monthly Board Meeting
- Tuesday, November 2 – Election Day
- Thursday, January 13 - 14, 2022 – OAEO Winter Conference (virtual REO classes Jan11-12)

XII. Motion to Adjourn

2021-125 – At 11:13 a.m., Mr. Combs made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion.

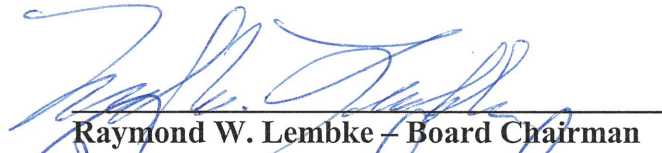
Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

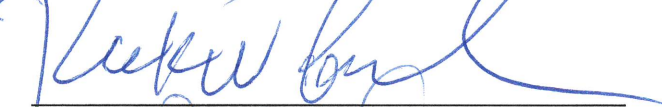
Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

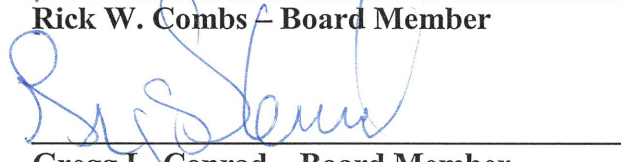
Mr. Lembke – Yes



Raymond W. Lembke – Board Chairman



Rick W. Combs – Board Member



Gregg L. Conrad – Board Member



Rick Grant – Board Member

Date 10-27-2021

**APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 29, 2021**

VENDOR	DESCRIPTION OF PAYMENT	AMOUNT
INVOICES APPROVED BY BOARD MEMBERS:		
CULLIGAN	BOTTLED WATER	\$ 52.25
E. S. & S.	ELECTION SUPPORT - DAN SHEBESTA 3-2-21	\$ 1,700.00
E. S. & S.	ANNUAL MAINT. HARDWARE & SOFTWARE	\$ 81,275.00
GRAPHIC VILLAGE	NCOA MAILING	\$ 7,581.15
INTEGRATED VOTING SYSTEMS	BALLOT PRINTING 5-4-21 SPECIAL ELECTION	\$ 799.90
OFFICE DEPOT	OFFICE SUPPLIES - TONER & COPY PAPER	\$ 437.07
OFFICE DEPOT	2 TONER CARTRIDGES - COMPUTER ROOM PRINTERS	\$ 152.18
OFFICE DEPOT	TAPE FOR BROTHER LABEL MAKER	\$ 57.84
ONSOLVE (ONE CALL)	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 9-9-21 TO 9-8-22	\$ 270.00
RB PRINTING	POLL. PLACE CHANGE POSTCARDS & POSTAGE	\$ 3,497.56
RB PRINTING	POSTCARDS - LOVELAND C NOTICE	\$ 389.71
RB PRINTING	POSTCARDS - BATAVIA TWP. C NOTICE	\$ 439.04
RUEBEL FAMILY LIMITED	OFF SITE STORAGE - SEPTEMBER	\$ 3,300.00
RUEBEL FAMILY LIMITED	OFF SITE STORAGE - OCTOBER	\$ 3,300.00
CRYSTAL WHITE	REIMBURSEMENT FOR BACKGROUND CHECK	\$ 30.00
US BANK	PCARD - KIM - ELECTRIC STAPLERS	\$ 174.24
US BANK	PCARD - CHRIS - WALL MOUNTED KEY STORAGE UNITS	\$ 51.98
STAFF SALARIES	PAY PERIOD 08-09-21 TO 08-22-21	\$ 17,515.22
BOARD MEMBERS SALARIES	PAY PERIOD 08-09-21 TO 08-22-21	\$ 2,426.60
STAFF SALARIES	PAY PERIOD 08-23-21 TO 09-05-21	\$ 18,021.61
BOARD MEMBERS SALARIES	PAY PERIOD 08-23-21 TO 09-05-21	\$ 2,426.60
STAFF SALARIES	PAY PERIOD 09-06-21 TO 09-19-21	\$ 18,971.61
BOARD MEMBERS SALARIES	PAY PERIOD 09-06-21 TO 09-19-21	\$ 2,503.24
PART TIME EMPLOYEES	PAY PERIOD 09-06-21 TO 09-19-21	\$ 507.50
	TOTAL:	\$ 165,880.30

Cherie Wilson

From: Cherie Wilson
Sent: Thursday, September 2, 2021 10:16 AM
To: legals@clermontsun.com
Cc: bmilam@clermontsun.com; Stephanie Haight
Subject: Rescheduled September Monthly Board Meeting
Attachments: 2021 Sep 29 chg date for reg mtg general purpose.doc

Good morning!

Please be advised and post as a PSA (no cost) the attachment regarding the rescheduled September board meeting.

My direct phone number is 732-7485 if you have any questions.

Thank you!

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

**Clermont County Board of Elections
Notice of Change of Meeting Date**

The Clermont County Board of Elections has re-scheduled the
September 2021 Regular Monthly Board Meeting for:
Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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

The purpose of this meeting is for general purposes, including review
of minutes and finances, election status, and any and all other
matters that may come before the board.

Ray Lembke – Chairman
Stephanie Hemmer-Haight – Director