

**Automatic Recount Certification  
Jackson Township Trustee and Milford Charter Amendment**

**I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**II. Roll Call**

Ray Lembke – Chair – Yes

Rick Combs – Yes

Gregg Conrad – Yes

Rick 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**

**2021-160** – 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** – Brian Shrive, Assistant County Prosecutor

**V. Board to Verify & Accept the Results of the Test Deck Following Tabulation of Jackson Township and Milford City Precincts Involved in the Recount**

At 9:01 a.m., the board recessed while Mr. Conrad and Mr. Grant and observed the director, deputy director and assistant run the test deck through the DS850 ballot scanner.

At 9:17 a.m., the board returned from recess.

Mr. Combs read the results from the newly run test deck report while Mr. Lembke compared them to the control sheet. The board found the results matched and that the DS850 was counting accurately.

**2021-161** – Mr. Grant made the motion to accept the results of the test deck for the recount. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

**VI. Report of the Results of the Recount**

Director Hemmer-Haight presented the recount results. There was no change for either the Jackson Township Trustee race or the Milford Charter Amendment. Mr. Herron's margin held; he and Joe Speeg were elected as Jackson Township Trustees. For the Milford Charter Amendment, the five Hamilton County negative votes added to the Clermont County totals resulted in a tie, confirmed by the recount. A majority affirmative vote was necessary for passage, so the ballot initiative failed.

**VII. Motion to Certify the Results of the Recount for Jackson Township Trustee**

305 – Harold Herron

302 – JJ Johnson

**2021-162** – Mr. Conrad made the motion to certify the recount for Jackson Township Trustee. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

### VIII. Motion to Certify the Results of the Recount for Milford Charter Amendment

692 – YES  
692 – NO

**2021-163** – Mr. Conrad made the motion to certify the results of the Milford Charter Amendment. Mr. Grant seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

### IX. Upcoming Events and Meetings:

- Monday, December 6, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. – Post Election Audit Begins  
*Audits must be completed (no later than 14 days after the Certification of Recount of Election)*
- Monday, December 13 at 10:00 a.m. – December Regular Board Meeting
  - \* Certification of Post-Election Audit
  - \* Holiday Party following meeting
- Office Closed – Christmas Holiday – Friday, December 24 – Monday, December 27
- Office Closed – New Year Holiday – Friday, December 31
- Thursday, January 13 - 14, 2022 OAEO Winter Conference (virtual REO classes Jan 11-12)
- Tuesday, June 28 and Wednesday, June 29, 2022 – SOS Summer Conference

Mr. Combs asked when the new clerk position would be posted. Director Hemmer-Haight replied that it will be posted on our website today; we plan to post it on the county site and other election sites as well. We have already received one resume from word of mouth.

The board discussed potential starting pay for a new clerk. Crystal White was hired in September at \$16/hour. Because fast food restaurants are hiring at \$15-16/hour or more, the board discussed the need to offer a competitive pay rate, with the possibility of increasing Crystal's pay as well. However, offering new employees a higher rate lowers the gap between new and existing employees' pay scales. The board expects to consider employee raises in January. Traditionally the county increases the payroll budget 2-3% annually, to be allocated by the board. However, recent accelerating inflation drastically increased the 2022 Federal cost-of-living allowance for Social Security recipients from 1.3% to 5.9% – the highest jump in 40 years. So a 3% employee pay raise would not even keep pace with inflation.

Given escalating inflation, the board is concerned about keeping existing employees and believes they are underpaid across the board. Director Hemmer-Haight has requested that Kathy Weaver provide salary information of other county employees for comparison. The board also asked the directors to contact other counties regarding BOE employee pay and duties. We believe our staff is smaller than other counties of similar size; thus our employees are stretched to cover more roles. To build the case with the commissioners for a payroll budget increase, the board suggested that the directors create an overall plan for what each employee should be paid, considering their responsibilities, tenure and performance.

Mr. Grant suggested hiring the new clerk for \$16.50/hour, with a possible increase after the probation period, and increasing Crystal's pay now, since she has done an excellent job during the election cycle.

**2021-164** – Mr. Grant made the motion to increase the pay for Crystal White to \$17/hour effective today (December 1, 2021). Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

Mr. Combs indicated that the Red Barn reportedly has been sold; some leaseholders have been asked to vacate by the end of 2021. Our lease expires at the end of March, 2022; although no one has yet approached us about moving our equipment, we do not expect the lease to be renewed. We need to plan for a different site for training and equipment. Mr. Grant reported that the County Commissioners and the Facilities department have been investigating possible options. Mr. Combs stressed the need to verify that we are on the county's "replacement list" for a new facility that will accommodate our offices, early voting and training areas, plus equipment storage. Acquiring funding, land, engineering, building and furnishing is a multi-year process once we are on the replacement list.

**XI. Motion to Adjourn**

2021-165 – At 10:04 a.m., Mr. Grant made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion.


Upon roll call:

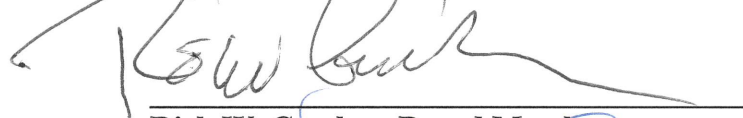
Mr. Combs – Yes

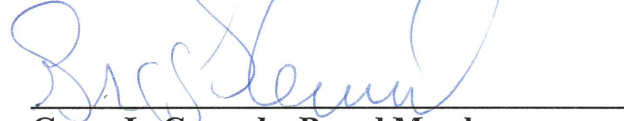
Mr. Conrad – Yes

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 12/13/2021

**Cherie Wilson**

---

**From:** Cherie Wilson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 23, 2021 8:56 AM  
**To:** 'legals@clermontsun.com'  
**Cc:** 'bmilam@clermontsun.com'  
**Subject:** RE: Notice of upcoming board meetings  
**Attachments:** 2021 Nov Dec General Election recount audit meetings.docx

Good morning,

Please be advised and post as a PSA (no cost) the attachment regarding the upcoming recount and audit board meetings for the November 2021 General election.

Thank you,

Cherie Wilson, Administrative Support Specialist  
Clermont County Board of Elections  
76 S. Riverside Dr.  
Batavia, OH 45103  
513-732-7485

## **Clermont County Board of Elections Notice of Board Meetings**

The Clermont County Board of Elections has scheduled Board Meetings for

November 29, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. -- Commence automatic recounts  
December 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. -- Certify recounts

December 6, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. -- Commence Audit  
December 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. -- Certification of the November 2021  
General Election audit and regular monthly board meeting

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

Ray Lembke – Chairman  
Stephanie Hemmer-Haight – Director