

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

Chairman Ray Lembke called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Mr. Combs 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**

Mr. Lembke stated that the board needs to modify the agenda to comply with SOS Directive 2022-31 regarding prior board actions on petitions for candidates not included in the May 3<sup>rd</sup> primary.

**2022-46** – Mr. Conrad made the motion to adopt the agenda as modified. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

### **IV. Other attendees – none**

Mr. Lembke read from SOS Directive 2022-31 Section III stating that boards' certification or rejection of Ohio General Assembly and/or State Central Committee candidates for the May 3, 2022 Primary Election is null and void due to the Ohio Supreme Court's invalidation of the February 24<sup>th</sup> district plan. Board members must acknowledge this on the record at their next board meeting.

**2022-47** – Mr. Conrad made the motion to declare our certifications and rejections of candidate petitions for Ohio House and State Central Committee to be null and void. Mr. Grant seconded the motion. Upon discussion, Mr. Conrad requested clarification of the SOS directive. Mr. Lembke noted that the petitions in question were predicated on the General Assembly districts at that time; the SOS Directive appears to say that the court's rejection of those districts invalidates the boards' actions on the corresponding petitions. So the SOS directive requires boards to nullify those petition motions on the record; the board will need to review the petitions again after we receive further information about the date of the second primary and the associated petition rules. We do not yet know if the petition process will be reopened.

Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

### **V. Public Test for Primary Election – May 3, 2022**

At 10:05 a.m., the Board recessed while Mr. Grant and Mr. Conrad observed the director, deputy director and assistant run the test deck through the DS-850 ballot scanner.

At 10:35 a.m., the Board returned from recess. Deputy Director Dennison read the results from the newly run report while Mr. Combs compared them to the control sheet. The board found that the results matched and that the DS-850 ballot scanner was counting accurately. The board signed and dated the reports.

**2022-48** – Mr. Grant made the motion to accept the results of the Public Test for the May 3, 2022 Primary Election. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

### **VI. Public participation – none**

### **VII. Approval of Minutes**

- March 23, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting

**2022-49** – Mr. Grant made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2022 board meeting. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

#### **VIII. Approval of Bills as of April 20, 2022**

**2022-50** – Mr. Conrad made the motion to approve payment of the bills as of April 20, 2022. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon discussion, Mr. Conrad noted that the highlighted items were added to the early copy that was distributed with the preliminary meeting agenda. He asked if we are using our grant money for this election. Director Hemmer-Haight confirmed that we plan to use all of the grant money that we received, and will require additional funds if a second primary is scheduled.

Upon roll call:

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

#### **IX. Review of Election Equipment Allocation**

**2022-51** – Mr. Combs made the motion to allocate one DS-200 optical scanner per precinct and one ExpressVote per polling location. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

#### **X. Campaign Finance Referrals**

Director Hemmer-Haight read the information from the attached list of 16 campaign finance violations for the board to consider for referral.

**2022-52** – Mr. Conrad made the motion to refer the candidates and committees on the list provided by the director 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

#### **XI. Polling Location Change**

Director Hemmer-Haight mentioned during the previous meeting that we plan to move the Batavia Firehouse precincts to Batavia Elementary School; she asked for the board to make a motion for the record. We sent notification cards to the voters on April 11<sup>th</sup>; and the school published the changes in their newsletter. The school has scheduled an in-service day on Election Day, and the staff has been instructed to park at the back of the lot. The high school will be open, they have been notified to expect additional voter traffic. The long-term plan is to move all of the Batavia Elementary precincts to the high school gym after the Batavia campus construction is complete – possibly in 2023 or 2024.

**2022-53** – Mr. Combs made the motion to move the polling location for Batavia Township C and P precincts from the Batavia Firehouse located at 2401 Old State Route 32 to Batavia Elementary School located at 3 Bulldog Place. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

#### **XII. Director's report**

a. Election Update

As of close of business on 4/19, we have had 450 walk-in voters. As we get closer to Election Day, the early voting traffic generally increases.

b. Total Registered Voters – 148,994 (2018 – 139,110 registered voters); fifteen 17-year old voters

Mr. Lembke noted that Clermont County's over-18 population is just over 169,000 (based on the 2020 Census), so our percentage of registered voters is over 88%. Not everyone counted in the census is eligible to vote, so our actual percentage may be higher. The census reported overall Midwest Region voter registration as 72%, so we are doing an excellent job of registering voters.

c. Absentee Report:

Mailed ballots as of COB April 19, 2022: Requested (1746), Returned (202), UOCAVA (10)

d. Early Voting – Saturday April 30 and Sunday May 1

Director Hemmer-Haight reported that she has contacted Nick (Red Barn owner) and Wade Grabowski from County Facilities to finalize a multi-year contract instead of continuing the lease month-to-month. The draft contract has been sent to Brian Shrive for review. Ohio Revised Code allows the commissioners thirty days to review it; the auditor's office will not approve an invoice until we have a signed contract in place. The contract submitted for review stipulates a rent increase from \$3300 to \$3800 per month.

### XIII. Deputy Director's report

a. Ballot Delivery

We expect delivery of Election Day ballots on 4/21; they will be loaded into the DS-200 machines and ready for deployment the week of 4/25.

b. Website update

Deputy Director Dennison had a Zoom meeting with Revize last week to finalize the website menu tree; Revize has provided web graphics and standard page formats for review. The functionality for user-defined absentee reports and labels is available now on the existing site; we are also reporting weekly statistics, and expect to improve the automation of the weekly reporting. Directing public inquiries to the website has reduced the daily workload for Becky.

c. Poll Worker/PEO Training: 3 PEO classes left

Deputy Director Dennison advised that the SOS has mandated counties to provide pre-paid express return labels for UOCAVA ballots even though their return deadline was extended by ten days. The cost of the return labels is \$20 to \$90 per ballot; we do have specific grant funds to cover the additional UOCAVA cost, in addition to the grant money for the primary election.

Mr. Conrad reported that he had called to get an absentee application mailed to his home; the mail took at least ten days to get to him, although other family members received their applications about four days earlier. His mail goes through the Amelia post office, which has been a source of other voter-reported issues; Deputy Director Dennison has addressed the ongoing problems with our designated USPS contacts. The mail house processing is going smoothly overall, with only one ballot mistake (human error) to date.

Deputy Director Dennison noted that the Clermont County Fair is scheduled for the last week of July, which may be the last week of early voting (and final election preparation) if there is an August 2<sup>nd</sup> primary for the Ohio General Assembly and State Central Committee candidates. We may not have adequate staff for both efforts that week; we can reopen the discussion after the date for the second primary is announced.

### XIV. Upcoming Events and Meeting Dates

- April 22 – Deadline to file notice of observer appointments
- May 3 – Primary Election Day (polls open 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.)
- Open official canvass: May 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. (includes regular monthly board meeting)
- Certification of May 3 primary election: May 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
- Recounts:
  - candidate or group requested = 5 days after certification
  - automatic = NLT 10 days after certification
- Post-Election Audit:
  - no recount = 6 days after certification
  - recount = immediately after certification, completed within 14 days
- June Regular Monthly Board Meeting – Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, June 28 and Wednesday, June 29, 2022 – SOS Summer Conference

**XV. Adjournment**

2022-54 – At 11:31 a.m., Mr. Grant made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Combs seconded the motion.


Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

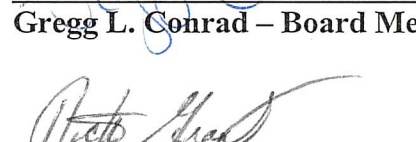
Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

  
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Raymond W. Lembke – Board Chairman

  
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Rick W. Combs – Board Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregg L. Conrad – Board Member

  
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Rick Grant – Board Member

Date 5-24-2022

# APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR BOARD MEETING

APRIL 20, 2022

VENDOR	DESCRIPTION OF PAYMENT	AMOUNT
<b>INVOICES APPROVED BY BOARD MEMBERS:</b>		
CHAMPION MEDIA	ADVERTISING FOR JACKSON TWP.	\$ 168.00
CHAMPION MEDIA	ADVERTISING FOR FRANKLIN TWP.	\$ 236.26
CHAMPION MEDIA	ADVERTISING FOR FELICITY FRANKLIN SCHOOL	\$ 105.00
CULLIGAN WATER	BOTTLED WATER - 4-1-22 TO 4-30-22	\$ 48.85
E. S. & S.	ELECTION SUPPORT - DAN SHEBESTA - MARCH 5 DAYS	\$ 8,975.00
MILLENNIUM	STAPLES FOR THE COPIER	\$ 196.00
OFFICE DEPOT	PAPER CLIPS	\$ 18.98
OFFICE DEPOT	COPY PAPER	\$ 120.42
OFFICE DEPOT	SMALL BINDER CLIPS	\$ 5.20
OFFICE DEPOT	COLOR PAPER	\$ 67.36
OFFICE DEPOT	ENVELOPES	\$ 99.99
PITNEY BOWES	LETTER OPENER SERVICE AGREEMENT 10-1-21 - 3-31-22	\$ 273.38
RB PRINTING	POLLING PLACE CHANGE POSTCARDS - BAT. TWP.	\$ 2,321.21
RB PRINTING	12-H PROVISIONAL HOTLINE SHEETS	\$ 485.32
RUEBEL FAMILY LIMITED	OFF SITE STORAGE FOR APRIL 2022	\$ 3,800.00
RUEBEL FAMILY LIMITED	OFF SITE STORAGE FOR MAY 2022	\$ 3,800.00
US BANK	PCARD-KIM - CLEAR LEGAL FOLDERS & TONER	\$ 211.58
US BANK	PCARD-CHRIS - EXTENSION CORDS, POWER STRIPS, SPLITTLERS, HEAVY DUTY STAPLERS & STAPLES	\$ 1,443.62
STAFF SALARIES	PAY PERIOD 03-21-22 TO 04-03-22	\$ 18,590.50
BOARD MEMBERS SALARIES	PAY PERIOD 03-21-22 TO 04-03-22	\$ 2,541.60
PART TIME	PAY PERIOD 03-21-22 TO 04-03-22	\$ 768.00
OVERTIME	PAY PERIOD 03-21-22 TO 04-03-22	\$ 64.61
STAFF SALARIES	PAY PERIOD 04-04-22 TO 04-17-22	\$ 18,783.95
BOARD MEMBERS SALARIES	PAY PERIOD 04-04-22 TO 04-17-22	\$ 2,541.60
PART TIME	PAY PERIOD 04-04-22 TO 04-17-22	\$ 3,036.00
OVERTIME	PAY PERIOD 04-04-22 TO 04-17-22	\$ 960.46
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 69,662.89</b>

## **April 2022 Referrals to the Ohio Elections Commission**

These candidates/committees filed their November 2021 Post General Reports late. The reports were due **12-10-2021 by 4:00 pm.**

Alan Ausman – filed 3-7-2022

R. Josh Clifton – filed 12-13-2021

Jeff Cummins – filed 1-12-2022

Loren Harris – filed 12-15-2021

Melanie Jasontek Rubenstein – filed 3-7-2022. After no reports were filed we contacted the candidate and she stated the report was mailed to the office in October 2021, we did not receive the report. The post general report was filed on 3-7-2022 with a statement: Paperwork was sent by mail in October of 2021. It was not received by the Election Office. I am resubmitting in person on 3-7-2022.

Jerry Manning – filed 12-16-2021

Noah Pennington – filed 12-10-2021 at 4:02 pm

Ron Shouse – filed 12-22-2021

These candidates/committees received contributions or had expenses before a Designation of Treasurer was filed.

Amy Bush – The DOT and post general report were filed on the same day, 11-29-2021. In-kind contributions were reported on 9-7-2021, 9-29-2021, and 10-7-2021)

Teresa Hinners – DOT filed 8-3-2021, in-kind contribution reported 7-27-2021

Danny Ilhardt – DOT filed 9-27-2021, in-kind contribution reported on 9-17-2021

Rebecca Johnson – DOT filed on 8-3-2021, in-kind contribution reported on 7-20-2021

Robert McGee – DOT filed on 3-12-2021, loan reported on 3-1-2021 and expense on 3-5-2021

Committee to Save Owensville – DOT filed 9-16-2021, contributions reported on 9-12-2021, 9-13-2021, and 9-14-2021 and expense reported on 9-15-2021

Mary Makley Wolff – DOT filed 7-21-2021, in-kind contribution received on 7-15-2021

Late filing for 2021 Annual Report. **The report was due 1-31-2022.**

Elaine Barnett – Late filing for the 2021 Annual Report. The report was due 1-31-2022, the report was filed on 2-14-2022.

**Cherie Wilson**

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**From:** Cherie Wilson  
**Sent:** Friday, April 1, 2022 11:22 AM  
**To:** legals@clermontsun.com  
**Cc:** bmilam@clermontsun.com; Stephanie Haight  
**Subject:** RE: Rescheduled April Monthly Board Meeting and PUBLIC TEST  
**Attachments:** 2022 Apr 20 chg reg mtg PUBLIC TEST.doc

Once again with the attachment! Have a great weekend!

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**From:** Cherie Wilson  
**Sent:** Friday, April 1, 2022 11:19 AM  
**To:** 'legals@clermontsun.com' <legals@clermontsun.com>  
**Cc:** 'bmilam@clermontsun.com' <bmilam@clermontsun.com>; Stephanie Haight <shaight@vote.clermontcountyohio.gov>  
**Subject:** Rescheduled April Monthly Board Meeting and PUBLIC TEST

Good morning!

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

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 April 2022 Regular Monthly Board Meeting for: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. The Public Test for the May 3, 2022 Primary Election will be held during the meeting.

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

The purpose of the monthly 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