

Election Board Meeting

June 11, 2019

Jeffry Grimes asked for a motion to open the recessed meeting of May 13, 2019. Judge Dave Balint, Vice Chairman, made the motion. Judge Farley Toothman, Secretary; seconded, all in favor. Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. Attending the meeting in addition to Jeffry Grimes, Judge Dave Balint & Judge Farley Toothman were Chief Clerk Jeff Marshall, Director of Elections Tina Kiger, Solicitor Cheryl Cowen, Scott Kelley, Commissioner Archie Trader and members of the public and news.

OLD BUSINESS:

Municipal Primary Election – May 21, 2019:

Mrs. Kiger informed the Board of the total votes cast in the May Primary:

Total Votes Cast – 7,448/38.81%

She informed the board that the Election went fairly smooth with the new voting system.

Scott Kelley spoke more on the issues that took place. He informed the Board there was an issue in Waynesburg #1 with the scanner jamming. IT and representatives from ES&S cleaned the scanner and it worked for a while before starting to jam again. They went back to troubleshoot the problem. The scanner worked for a little while and jammed again. The scanner was replaced with a new one. ES&S came to the office and fixed the scanner with the jamming problem. There were a few other jams that were determined to be normal and fixed easily.

Mr. Kelley explained he thought some of the film that is on the plastic when shipped, was left on some of the separators inside the bins and they may have been causing the jams. Mr. Grimes asked how many machines there were in Waynesburg #1. Mr. Kelley believed there were 2-3 ballot markers and 1 scanner. Mr. Grimes asked what kind of time delay happens when you have a scanner issue like that and only one scanner. Mr. Kelley said the issue was fixed within a matter of minutes, but that was only because it was Waynesburg #1, which is close.

Mr. Grimes asked who scanned the ballots in Waynesburg #1? Scott informed him the Poll Workers scanned them in. Mr. Grimes asked if that was the protocol and who established it? Mr. Kelley replied yes, and it was taught at the Poll Worker classes if something would happen, they would do the following once the machine custodian is informed of the issue.

1. Judge of Election is informed to open the temporary ballot storage slot.
2. Voters will then place all voted ballots in this slot until the scanner is fixed or replaced, thus keeping the ballots private.

3. Then the Poll Workers will scan all ballots that are located in the temporary ballot storage at the end of the night before the polls are closed.

Scott Kelley also spoke about the Rovers that helped during the Election. They made the process go more smoothly and worked extremely well.

Judge Toothman, Secretary, brought up a matter, which he saw as a mistake on the county website regarding Waynesburg #3 Office of the Member of Council. On the website it only showed one office with three candidates, when in actuality and correct on the ballot, there were two separate offices. One for a four-year term and one for a two-year term. Mr. Kelley stated he was aware of this issue in one other precinct, Freeport Township, but unaware of Waynesburg #3. He explained that the web parser combined the two races in the Freeport Supervisors race and must have done the same for Waynesburg #3.

Judge Toothman questioned if it was remarkable, that in the Dunkard Township change, Dunkard #1 had 507 registered voters and only 160 voted. Dunkard #2 had 612 registered voters and only 186 voted. Mrs. Kiger and Mr. Kelley informed him this was typical and actually it was a little higher than normal. The voting numbers were higher in all precincts this time. Judge Toothman then asked if after the first signing of the certification, were there any inkling of a recount. Mrs. Kiger informed him there had been, but the candidate chose not to follow through with it.

Judge Toothman asked about a machine positioning issue that occurred in Washington Township. He received calls about this from a Mr. Blaker.

- Mr. Blaker was present and issued his complaint, stating the machines were setup facing toward the general public. He felt intimidated and that his rights were violated. He informed the board that he spoke with Tina and she informed him a change had been made. His opinion is, you can't change the voting process in the middle of the voting process, unless you do the whole county across the board.
- Judge Toothman responded to Mr. Blaker that he understands his frustration and, as a Board Member, he is glad he brought the situation to their attention. We are always refining everything in the Election stuff. Election day is an opportunity to make those refinements. When there are mistakes made, we have to give the local board the opportunity to fix it and direct them to do so, which is what we did.

- Mrs. Kiger informed the Board it will be emphasized at the next class that machines must face away from the public to ensure privacy. The Rovers will also be instructed to make sure the machines are placed the proper way.
- Mr. Blaker again asked how you could change partway through the process. Mr. Grimes replied; obviously if there is an error, it needs to be fixed. I think we can all agree privacy is fundamental. It sounds to Mr. Grimes like the county responded appropriately.
- Mr. Grimes asked about screens that would diminish visibility. Mr. Kelley thought that was not a bad idea.
- Judge Toothman asked if the room was too small. Mr. Blaker replied he thought it was adequate. Commissioner Trader thinks the room is too small and needs to be moved back to the truck shed.
- Mr. Trader suggested getting 3ft tables to put the machines on.
- A discussion was had about the difference between the old machines and new machines.
 - Old machines could “piggy back” and plug into each other
 - The new machines cannot “piggy back”, therefore, we need more outlets, extension cords and power strips
 - Because of this, it is a little more difficult to set up. They have to make sure there are no tripping hazards, as well as, make it private.
- Mr. Grimes, as a Member of the Election Board, apologized to Mr. Blaker for the error in the precinct and stated all we can do is make certain that does not happen again. He also informed Mr. Blaker there were certain appeal rights through the courts.
- Mr. Dave Russo asked from this point moving on, who is responsible in making sure the machines are facing the right way and who is accountable if they are not.
 - Mr. Grimes replied he didn’t know about accountability; everyone can always appeal. The County, Election Board and Election Office are responsible for putting on the Election.

Certifications

- The board signed the State and County Certifications

NEW BUSINESS

Sheriff’s Vacancy

- Mrs. Kiger informed the board due to the passing of Sheriff Brian Tennant, the office of Sheriff is vacant. Marcus Simms is currently interim Sheriff until the end of the year. She will be sending the necessary paperwork to the party chairmen

to nominate candidates to go on the November ballot. These forms need to be returned by September 16, 2019.

Southeastern Greene School Board Vacancy

- Mrs. Kiger informed the Board, Joe Spiker, who was a candidate on the ballot passed away in the beginning of March. At the time, it was too late to remove his name from the ballots. During the Primary Election he received enough votes to move on to the November Election. According to law, the office would be declared vacant. She will be sending the necessary paperwork to the party chairmen to nominate candidates to go on the November ballot. These forms need to be returned by August 22, 2019.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Casting of tie votes – June 14, 2019 @12:00 p.m. (Southeastern Greene School Director)

- Judge Toothman asked who were the tied votes for and have they specifically been notified?
 - Mrs. Kiger stated they were for J.R. Antill and Jeffrey Duranko and yes, they had been notified.
- Mr. Grimes asked what kind of notice did we give for that?
 - Mrs. Kiger stated she mailed them a notice.
- Judge Toothman asked how many votes they were tied by?
 - Mrs. Kiger informed them it was tied by 40 votes.

Mr. Grimes thanked Archie Trader, Commissioner for his years of service

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cheryl Cowen, Solicitor, informed the board Commissioner Archie Trader is no longer a candidate for office and therefore is eligible to be back on the Election Board as a Member.

- Discussion was had
 - Judge Toothman said he would take that under advisement.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

TBA

ADJOURNMENT:

Judge Toothman, Secretary, made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 a.m., Jeffry Grimes, Chairman seconded. Vote Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Kiger
Director of Elections