



BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEETING

February 26, 2020

3:00 PM

Courthouse

2nd Floor, Commissioners Hearing Room

Carlisle, PA

Minutes

Present: Commissioner Eichelberger, Commissioner Foschi, Commissioner DiFilippo; Sandy Moyle, Chief Clerk; Jennifer Crum, Administrative Specialist; Bethany Salzarulo, Bureau of Elections; Mark Adams, IMTO; Jennifer Hipp, Assistant Solicitor; Jessica Walls-Lavelle, Director of the Governor's Southwest Office.

Call to Order: Commissioner Eichelberger called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Commissioner Eichelberger, Foschi, and DiFilippo were present.

Public Comment: None

Implementation of Act 77:

Jessica introduced herself, she is with the Governor's office – Southcentral Region and has been temporarily assigned as the contact person for Act 77. She has been visiting counties to discuss what they are doing to implement the Act, as well as challenges, questions, and details of the law. Discussion from other counties is they all want to be able to open ballots before 8:00 p.m. There are meetings scheduled to discuss various options regarding how the process will work.

The 2020 budget report for the Elections Office was provided (see attached), which includes the election machines and scanners. There are no appropriations in the Bill and there are no appropriations being made in the budget. They are looking at the Federal Help America Vote Act fund that are specifically for election security, but can include things that will help the integrity of a federal election. Budget expenses were discussed based on what the State was projecting for the County.

There was discussion of the constitution regarding mail-in being added but absentee ballots could not be omitted. Definition of absentee is specific. Within the election code, there are provisions where absentee ballots can be challenged. It was suggested to educate the public on mail-in vs. absentee ballots.

There was discussion regarding the process of opening ballots - prepping ballots but not open; opening during public view; canvass early – multiple points in time; possibly enter all then

calculate when its time. There are also concerns with the signature block and the watermark if an absentee voter would show up to vote. Department of State will be sending information for departments that are interested. These suggestions might be feasible if there were state funds available.

Voter Education Plans: Ready to Vote Tool Kit with educational materials will soon be available from the State. Handouts will be available for polling places on primary election day that will reflect new changes regarding voting by mail, online or complete an application.

Other Business: Commissioner Foschi addressed the Opioid Intervention Court Program and mentioned that there are funds available for opioid addiction in the amount of approximately \$53 million. Representative Rothman made a request to the Attorney General to get funding for Cumberland County. The funding they are aware of is \$53 million of \$1 billion.

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Crum
Administrative Specialist