



MINUTES

Cumberland County Board of Elections Meeting

October 29, 2020 – 1:30 p.m.
Commissioners' Hearing Room
Courthouse, Carlisle, PA

Phone (717) 240-6150 Website: www.ccpa.net

Present: Commissioner Gary Eichelberger, Commissioner Jean Foschi, Commissioner Vince DiFilippo.

Staff Present: Stacy M. Snyder, Acting Chief Clerk; Jennifer Crum, Administrative Specialist; Jennifer Hipp, Assistant Solicitor

Department Staff Present: Bethany Salzarulo, Bureau of Elections; Samantha Krepps, Chris Sechrist, Benjamin Burner, Communications; Kelly Neiderer, Treasurer, Skip Ebert, District Attorney.

Department Staff Present via Zoom: Mark Adams, IMTO

Others Present via Zoom: Sam Milkes, North Middleton Township; Madelyn Campbell, Carlisle; Kyle Gricoskie, East Pennsboro Township; JJ Abbot, East Pennsboro Township; Debra Jacobs, Dickinson Township; Jo Miller, Hampden Township; Debra Cornelius, Carlisle Borough; Sandra Snyder, Camp Hill; Katie Daniels, Dr. Ellen Castagneto; Emily Pawley, North Middleton Township; Jim Balaban, Upper Allen Township; Monica Kniete, Lemoyne Borough; James Limbacher, Hampden Township; Sandy William, Hampden Township; Kim B., East Pennsboro Township; Gwen Browning, Camp Hill Borough; Harrison Wendelken, Carlisle Borough; Tracy Margaret Aichele; Jessica H., Silver Spring Township; Peter Adams, Upper Allen Township; Lisa Budwig, Lemoyne; Kathleen Keadon, Hampden Township.

Media Present: Zach Hoopes, Naomi Creason, The Sentinel; Charlie Thompson, Patriot-News; Barbara Barr, Channel 8 News, Michael Gorsegner, Channel 21 News, Daniel Hamburg, Channel 27 News; Chelsea Koerbler, Fox 43 News.

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

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Commissioner DiFilippo made a motion to approve the minutes of October 6, 2020. Commissioner Foschi seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Approval of the Pool of Poll Workers: Commissioner Foschi made a motion to approve the Pool of Poll Workers. Commissioner DiFilippo seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mail-In Ballot Updates: There was discussion regarding the counting of the mail-in ballots that are post-marked by November 3, 2020.

Canvassing of Mail-In Ballots: Assistant Solicitor Jennifer Hipp reviewed Act 77 regarding canvassing and prec canvassing. Discussion ensued regarding the process of canvassing and counting the votes, to begin on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Commissioners expressed that they are protecting the residents of Cumberland County's constitutional right to vote and all votes will be counted. Security of the ballots are of the utmost importance. There previously was a decision by the Board to pre-canvass, however, further discussion with the Assistant Solicitor regarding members of each party and candidate representatives who shall by law, be allowed in the room to witness a pre-canvass. With space limitation within the building, security and social distancing, the Board determined pre-canvassing could not be conducted according to the law. There also mentioned the security concerns related to physically moving over 46,000 mail-in ballots to another location. The counting of the mail-in votes is only thirteen hours difference and delaying staff counting mail-in ballots after an eighteen hour work day on election day and starting the day after would lead to a more secure and accurate count. The Department of State needs the unofficial election results on November 11, 2020, which is the eighth day after the election.

Public Comment: There were comments and questions from the public expressing the legality of pre-canvassing, the definition of canvassing vs. pre-canvassing, timeline of pre-canvassing prior to counting the mail-in ballots, and reporting requirements timeline and updates. Several asked about the logistics of Cumberland County's decision regarding pre-canvassing and preparations for pre-canvassing. Many suggestions were given for the Board to consider and the Board responded with an explanation when appropriate. Several concerns were shared by many attendees regarding the recent Supreme Court decision, USPS concerns, as well as concerns that the President will stop the counting of votes on election day. Discussion ensued.

Media Comment: Several media outlets were in attendance at the meeting. During a break in public comment, the media was given the opportunity to ask questions. Several asked questions to differentiate between pre-canvassing and canvassing, to understand the staffing and personnel decisions, and to understand the reasons why Cumberland County won't be pre-canvassing. The Board emphasized canvassing will start on November 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. and provided their reasoning for not pre-canvassing. Bethany Salzarulo also commented when necessary to provide the details. There were also questions as to whether the Secretary of State has been in touch with the Board to discuss solutions to pre-canvass. The Board mentioned they had not heard from her and indicated they had reached out for assistance to John Fetterman's office and the Governor's office.

Discussion ensued regarding making a motion regarding pre-canvassing. Jennifer Hipp suggested for the Board to proceed with the information they currently have. There needs to be a notice on the website 48 hours in advance regarding pre-canvassing.

Commissioner DiFilippo made a motion to forgo the optional action of pre-canvassing of mail-in and absentee ballots and to commence the canvassing of mail-in and absentee ballots effective 9:00 a.m. November 4, 2020 and continuing in compliance of the law until all counting is concluded. Commissioner Eichelberger seconded the motion. The motion carried with Commissioner Foschi voting No.

Report of Executive Session: Commissioner Eichelberger reported there was an executive session held on October 6, 2020 @ 10:50 a.m. Re: Pending Litigation; October 19, 2020 @ 2:30 p.m. Re: Pending Litigation and Security Matters; October 28, 2020 @ 3:45 p.m. Re: Pending Litigation and Security Matters

Request for Executive Session: Commissioner Eichelberger requested an executive session Re Litigation and Security matters.

Other Business: The Bureau of Elections office will be open until 8:00 p.m. this evening for residents to drop off ballots.

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Foschi made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Crum
Administrative Specialist