

THE LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

July 27, 2020

The Lancaster County Board of Elections met on July 27, 2020 to perform the yearly performance evaluation of the General Registrar and other business. In attendance were Barbara Breeden, Chairperson, Carol Biscontini, Vice Chair and Lee Pulling, Secretary.

Barbara Breeden called the meeting to order at 2:32pm. Carol Biscontini made a motion to approve the minutes of the May Town Elections and the June Primary elections. Barbara Breeden seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as written.

The performance evaluation of the General Registrar was completed with three additional goals and will be presented to the Registrar for her comments and signature.

A discussion was held on the possibility of combining precincts 301 and 302 at a new location for the next election due to the unexpected problems created by the Covid-19 virus. At this time, there are many election officers not willing to work the precincts and staying home. However, it was the Board's opinion that the Presidential Election will have enough challenges without changing the voter's precincts. The logistics of voter notification and getting emergency approvals are issues that can be avoided at this time.

When early voting begins, the large feather flag will be placed at the GR location to aid voters in finding the office.

The Registrar's office received a CARES Act award to help offset the cost associated with the 2020 Presidential Election. "The money must be used for costs related to the CORONAVIRUS for items such as

mailings, equipment to handle increase in voting preferences, personnel, etc.” A modification of the Registrar’s office for early voting is underway. Remaining funds will be utilized as above.

A draft of newspaper articles should be sent to the Board members in advance of publication for possible additional input. Additionally, an ad needs to be drafted to recruit new election officers and sent to the Board for input.

The General Assembly made massive changes in the voting laws. At least two long training sessions are needed for our election officers. A session in August or September for Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs and the pre-election training in October for all working election officers. In the August session, a list of volunteers to help with the early voting can be compiled as well as additional office assistance duties. Additional personnel expenses are covered by the CARES Act award.

Our election officers need as much election information as they can possibly absorb such as explaining the new laws, responding to voters questions, clarification in the precincts about absentee ballots, voting with and without mask, outside voting rules, their responsibilities to the voters and assistance in closing the polls, etc.

Questions raised by the State Board of Elections Elect training regarding pre-processing ballots by mail needs forthcoming clarification and guidelines. The CAP staff may need additional workers and work days.

Barbara Breeden made a motion to adjourn at 4:15pm and was seconded by Carol Biscontini.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Pulling, Secretary