

September 23, 2014

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS – Regular Meeting

Mr. Fatica, Chairman of the Election Board, called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Board of Elections at 6:15 p.m. in the Erie County Council Caucus Room.

Mr. Smith, Clerk of Elections, called the roll:

Members Present: Mr. Fatica, Chairman
Mr. Leone, Vice Chairman
Mr. Breneman
Mr. DiMattio
Dr. Foust
Mr. Horton
Mrs. Loll

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, Clerk of Elections

Hearing of the Public: None.

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Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Leone moved to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2014, Regular Meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Horton and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Report by Douglas Smith, Clerk of Elections:

Mr. Smith gave an overview of his report, commenting that all machines are in working order. The ES&S regional representative was here last week to assist Ms. DeLand in these efforts.

Poll worker classes are going to be taking place October 1st at the Public Safety building and Mr. Smith commented that these classes have been taking place for quite a few years in an effort to educate the workers on the various tasks of Election Day. Mr. Fatica did state that he appreciates the efforts of the office and believes that situations have been handled better as a result.

Mr. Smith stated that the Court hearing for the consolidation of Wayne Township East and West, and Erie 6-2 and 6-3 occurred without issue. He reiterated that these consolidations should occur with minimal disruption to the voters along with saving the County money.

Absentee ballots went out on time and currently, 388 have been received. Mr. Smith feels that there will be many more returned prior to the October 31st deadline.

Mr. Smith noted that the Voter Registration Office will be helping out with student elections again this year. He explained that this is regular community outreach done by the office in an effort to get youth acquainted with the voting process and the voting machines.

Discussion then turned to the issue of the internal batteries in the voting machines. If a battery fails on Election Day, there will be issues with the machine. Mr. Smith explained two options to resolve this issue. One would be to replace all the batteries in all 641 machines, for a total of \$73,715, and try to get a few more years out of the machines. The second option would be a two year maintenance agreement for the voting machines, at a cost of \$83,000 per year for a two year period. This agreement would cover all issues that may crop up with the machines.

Dr. Foust asked the cost of purchasing the machines, which was approximately \$1.5 million. He proposed looking into finding a different voting machine system and looking into other options.

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Mr. Fatica then called for a motion to approve the 2014 General Election Ballot. This was moved by Mr. Leone, seconded by Mr. Breneman, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary