

February 5, 2015

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS – Reorganization Meeting

Douglas Smith, Clerk of Elections, called to order the 2015 Reorganization Meeting of the Erie County Board of Elections at 3:47 p.m. in the Erie County Council Caucus Room.

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

Members Present: Mr. DiMattio
Mr. Horton
Mr. Breneman

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, Clerk of Elections

Hearing of the Public: None.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. DiMattio moved to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2014 regular meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Breneman and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Other Business:

Mr. Smith gave an overview of the Consolidation Hearing which was held today at 11:00 a.m. before Judge Connelly. Brian Spry, an associate of Attorney Talarico, was the attorney. Ms. DeLand was present at the hearing as well. Neither Mr. Smith nor Ms. DeLand was called to testify before Judge Connelly as the Judge was satisfied with the brief as filed. Mr. Smith explained the consolidation as Erie 1-1 and 1-2, Erie 1-3 and 1-4, and Erie 1-5 and 1-6, which will now be Erie 1-1, Erie 1-3, and Erie 1-5. The other numbers will disappear. Mr. Smith stated that notices have been posted over ten days ago in all the areas affected. There were no objections placed against those consolidations, which was one of the Judge's considerations at the hearing.

Mr. Smith then commented that he did inform the party chairs of what was happening and the fact that there will be notices sent to all affected voters. There will be three groups that are changing polling places, and they will all receive

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notice by mail of that change. There may also be a mailing sent to the others just clarifying that a consolidation took place but it won't affect them in any way on Election Day.

Mr. Smith further stated that he sent notice to Mr. Yake at the Department of State, and they will then send official approval. They wait until it is approved on this end in the Courts and they then issue something on paper.

Mr. Smith went on to explain there have been some names attached to districts, such as East and West, North and South. Those really don't conjunct with the kind of language that map makers use. They use numbers – 1, 2, 3. Mike Baker, the map maker in Planning, had brought this to Mr. Smith's attention, so it's been decided, for that reason, any of those names will be modified to 1, 2, 3, 4, instead of East, West, North, South. He stated it won't change anything really and he will advise the Judges of Elections in those areas.

Regarding the Primary Election, Mr. Smith stated that they have scheduled a Candidates Forum for February 17, 2015, which will take place in Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m. This has been placed on the website which will give first time candidates a chance to come, ask questions, obtain petitions, etc. Mr. Smith stated that this has been done in past years and has had a fairly robust attendance. He did not expect that the meeting would be longer than 40 minutes or so.

There may be some questions on the ballot. Mr. Smith stated that he is getting questions concerning Franklin Township as they are looking to potentially put a question on the ballot reducing their supervisor board back to three. They just went to five three years ago. Mr. Smith commented that he spoke with Attorney Talarico and it is permitted by the Election Code, but it is unsure whether there is enough support for that to move forward. There may be a similar question in Millcreek about going to five. He stated that there needs to be 5% of registered voters.

The meeting recessed at 3:55 p.m. in anticipation of Mr. Horton's arrival and reconvened at 4:50 p.m.

Nomination of Chairman and Vice Chairman:

Mr. Horton moved to nominate Mr. DiMattio as Chairman. This was seconded by Mr. Breneman and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

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Mr. Horton then moved to nominate Mr. Breneman as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Mr. DiMattio and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Both Mr. Horton and Mr. DiMattio spoke of the kindness of the Voter Registration officers and agreed there are no better ambassadors for Erie County.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary