

April 2, 2015

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS – Regular Meeting

Douglas Smith, Clerk of Elections, called to order the 2015 Regular Meeting of the Erie County Board of Elections at 3:34 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. Horton moved to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2015 Reorganization Meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Breneman and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

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Other Business:

Mr. Smith began discussion regarding a Corry Area School District referendum regarding imposing a tax increase. This increase would be used to offset the tuition expense which will result if the Spartansburg Community Charter School is granted a charter. He further explained that Erie County is the home county, but part of the school district is in Crawford and Warren and will adopt after Erie County.

Mr. Horton asked how this would affect opening charter schools in Erie. Mr. Smith explained that under the PA Taxpayer Relief Act, a local school board is prohibited from increasing the rate of school property taxes by more than a certain percentage. In order for a local school board to raise them by more than the "index" amount, the school district must first request approval of that tax rate increase by voters of the school district. This referendum would not affect potential charters in Erie. Mr. Horton wanted it clarified that this is only affecting the Corry School District, and Mr. Smith confirmed.

Mr. Horton moved to approve the referendum, Mr. Breneman seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Regarding changes in the Wayne Township voting site, Mr. Smith explained that Wayne Township combined their districts last year into one, thus necessitating a larger facility. The New Beginnings Church was offered as a new location, which would be more centrally located for voters in the area, more parking is available, and it is larger than the Municipal Building. Mr. Horton moved to approve this site change, Mr. Breneman seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Regarding certification of the 2015 Erie County Primary Ballot, Mr. Smith stated that the vendor was in town last week to assist with the construction of the ballot. He commented that everything on the electronic side is in good working order and he is confident that the ballot is correct. Mr. Breneman then moved to certify the 2015 Erie County Primary Ballot, Mr. Horton seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary