

August 12, 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 12:00 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 (via telephone)
Dr. Foust (via telephone)
Mr. Horton
Mrs. Loll

Members Absent: Mr. DiMattio

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, Clerk of Elections
Kimberly DeLand, Supervisor

Hearing of the Public: None.

August 12, 2014

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Leone moved to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2014, Regular Meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Horton and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Discussion of Polling Site Contractions:

Mr. Smith stated that there are two groups to be discussed. The first group included two contractions he would like to see take place prior to the November election. Mr. Smith has written a resolution to that point. The first area to be considered is the contraction of Wayne Township East and West. There was a closing of Conelway School, which was the polling place for East. This leaves the municipal building as a good site to house a combined district. Mr. DiMattio, though not present at the meeting, has agreed to this in principle. Mr. Smith noted it is approximately a five mile drive, but there are not a lot of building selections in that area that are accessible. He commented that the office would post notices at Conelway School, alert the media and the general public in that area so all are aware of the change for November. All voters would receive a card in the mail notifying them of where their new polling site would be. Mr. Smith explained that they are two fairly small districts of just under 400 for the East and 641 for the West, creating a district of approximately 1,000. The request for contractions needs to be sent to the Department of State for their approval and Attorney Talarico would need to obtain a Court date. Mr. Smith stated that if a Court date could not be obtained in sufficient time, it would be pushed after the November election.

The second half of this resolution includes Erie 6-2 and 6-3, which is Mr. Leone's area. They currently vote in the same location – St. Joseph's Center. The practical impact on those voters at this point would be nil, but in each case, the County saves approximately \$1,000 per election because of elimination of a board. Mr. Smith noted that it does allow for deepening of the pool of workers, and when it gets down to the First Ward, that becomes an important issue with that discussion.

Mr. Leone then moved to take Resolution 1, 2014, to a vote separate from Resolution 2, 2014, which was seconded by Mrs. Loll.

Resolution 1, 2014, then carried in a unanimous roll call vote of 6-0.

Discussion then moved to Resolution 2, 2014. This resolution deals with three pairs of districts all in the First Ward, which is Mr. Horton's area. The first is Erie 1-1 and 1-2, combining 407 and 544 voters for a district of 951 at the current time. Half of the voters are currently at Schmid Towers and the other half are at

August 12, 2014

Church of the Nativity. The plan would be to house the combined district at Schmid towers. Mr. Horton asked that Mr. Smith make some materials available to voters in November to give them a heads up as to what would be coming. Mr. Smith stated that the Election Department will certainly follow up on that issue.

The next contraction would be Erie 1-3 and 1-4, with 651 and 992 respectively, for a combined district of 1,600. Mr. Smith noted that turnout in all of these areas is fairly below average compared to the rest of the County, even in presidential years. Mr. Smith did not feel that they will experience any great degree of difficulty, even in a presidential year, servicing these voters. This combined district would be housed at Church of the Nativity, which holds two now, and believes this is a good location and will serve voters well.

The third group would be Erie 1-5 and 1-6, with 423 and 896 respectively. The plan for 1-5 and 1-6 would be to house those voters at East High School. There is plenty of space there, and would leave Wayne School out. There is an idea perhaps to use Wayne for Erie 4-9, which is just down the street from the fire station which currently houses Erie 4-9 and is somewhat inadequate for voters.

Mr. Smith explained that these contractions are slated to take place after the November election. Of course there is still the matter of getting State approval and going through the Court process, which also involves alerting voters, even those that may object. At this point, it's the Board giving Mr. Smith approval to move forward.

Mr. Horton wanted to thank the members of the Election Board and Mr. Smith for the work they have done. Mr. Horton very much appreciated being included in the process. Mr. Horton is in support of all the contractions and stated he does want to work out Wayne School remaining in play as opposed to the fire station, which really is not a practical polling site.

Mr. Horton then made a motion to authorize Mr. Smith to proceed with keeping Wayne School as a polling site and terminating the fire house as a polling site. Mr. Smith then asked if Mr. Horton would like to amend Resolution 2, 2014, to include this language, which Mr. Horton agreed and so moved. This amendment was seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote of 6-0.

Resolution 2, 2014, as amended, carried in a unanimous roll call vote of 6-0.

Discussion then turned to Item 6 on the agenda, a possible motion for change in Erie 5-8 polling place from Burton School to JFK NATO, Inc., 2021 East 20th Street. Mr. Smith stated that there have been a number of complaints received about the school. The school is closed, the district does not use it, and Bertine

August 12, 2014

Hamilton, who is the Judge of Elections there, spoke with Mr. Smith at length after the last election. Ms. Hamilton stated that the police do drug dog training in the school and all sorts of activities that make it a difficult place to have an election. She further stated that it has been unkempt since it is not in use by the district. Mr. Smith commented while he is appreciative of the Erie School District making its buildings available, this is a good change as JFK NATO is just down Buffalo Road and they have plenty of parking. They have also agreed to house this extra district. Mr. Smith assured the Board that voters would be notified of this change as well.

Mr. Breneman commented that this move would make sense as they are both on a main thoroughfare, it is a recognizable building, and is about a three minute drive or ten minute walk. Mr. Breneman was very much in support of making the change.

Mr. Breneman then moved to change the Erie 5-8 polling place from Burton School to the JFK NATO Center. This was seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Horton asked how many voters would be affected and Mr. Smith stated that there are 1,209 as of the May primary.

The above motion then carried in a unanimous roll call vote of 6-0.

Mr. Fatica wanted to note that he has had conversations with Mrs. Hughes that there is an inordinate amount of difficulty getting people to work the polling places. It seems that it is tough to get people as a Judge to work the polls. Mr. Fatica will be working with Mrs. Hughes to make this a little more viable than what has been going on in the past, and he will keep the Board informed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary