

March 13, 2014 Board of Elections Reorganization Meeting

Present: Robin Wood, Russell Creech, Jerry Mink, Lizbeth Hernandez and Georgia Vanaman.

Robin Wood called the meeting to order at 9:24 a.m. It was noted that newly appointed board member Edward Avena was not present. The Board proceeded with their nominations for the upcoming year. Jerry Mink nominated Russell Creech to be chairman, seconded by Robin Wood. All were in favor. Nomination was made by Russell Creech to have Robin Wood serve as Commissioner of Registration. Seconded by Jerry Mink, all in favor.

Liz opened discussion with the board concerning an OPRA request filed by John Paff about Commercial Township. The request included four voters from Commercial Township he felt were voting there illegally. Liz Hernandez, Administrator sent letters to voters in question by certified mail. Cheryl Robbins who was questioned by the board of elections since she is a poll worker claimed Port Norris as her principal residence also stays part time with a male companion. Board members felt this was no issue. However, her address is now updated. Charles Del Rossi returned a response which included a copy of his NJ driver's license listing the Commercial Township residence. Jerry Mink made a point that all certified letters were sent to the Commercial Township addresses and received, they were not returned undeliverable. Leslie Hanby driver's license shows he moved out of Commercial in June 2012. He did vote after he moved out of Commercial Township. The board decided to forward this information to the Prosecutor's office. Charles A. Moore received the letter but made no response to the board of elections office so the board will also forward this to the Prosecutor. Poll workers in Greenwich have been working with an unbalanced board. Robin Wood motioned to reassign the poll workers in order to bring the board into balance. Russell Creech seconded, all in favor.

Liz stated to the board due to the reimbursement from the special elections last fall it was discovered the payment amounts to poll workers had been incorrectly established by prior administration. The amount poll workers should be paid is 200.00 each with an amount of 25.00 to be split up for the pickup and return of election supplies this is confirmed under Title 19:45-6. This will be reviewed to find the best solution and poll workers will be notified by letter prior to the upcoming election cycle. Jerry Mink motioned to accept the new pay scale Russell Creech with a second, all in favor.

Russell suggested the board send Troy Ferus the former chairman of the Board of Elections a letter of appreciation, all were in favor. Russell reported complaints he received concerning the conduct of the counting of mail in ballots. Russell was asked if

Sheriff Officers were to be present in the actual room of tally. Lizbeth answered that it is not a mandate in Title 19. Also it was questioned for challengers who have credentials for Election Day in the office. It was noted said challengers must adhere to the same guidelines in the office that are in place at the polling place. Policy for count room was reviewed.

Russell suggested obtaining information from vendors next week at the NJAEO convention in Atlantic City from vendors to move forward with optical scan ballot counting. Liz mentioned some program issues that she is awaiting some news on the ballot counting before purchasing a system. Russell stated confidence on data transfer is a must. Russell questioned our technology issues which Liz replied is controlled by the State.

Russell proposed a change in mail in ballot tallies in which the ballots would be handled in smaller batches and each team having a box to put rejected ballots in and accounting for each batch handed out. Also the possibility of checking signatures by the board before the election with consideration given to the need to advertise two days prior.

Russell thanked Liz for getting together a six year plan which addressed expanding the warehouse for future purchase of voting machines for redistricting. Also discussed was the need for hiring a new employee. The Board ended their meeting at 10:40 a.m. Jerry Mink motioned to adjourn, Russell seconded, all in favor.