

**October 13, 2020 PRE GENERAL ELECTION MEETING OF THE
DELAWARE COUNTY ELECTION BOARD**

PRESENT: Gerald Lawrence, Chairman
Jim Byrne
Ashley Lunkenheimer
J. Manly Parks, Board Solicitor

Also Present: Laureen Hagan, Bureau of Elections
Marianne Jackson, Bureau of Elections
Jim Savage, Voting Machine Warehouse
Christina Iacono, Consultant, Bureau of Elections
Crystal Winterbottom, Voter Registration

Pledge of Allegiance.

Drop box deployment. Ms. Jackson explained the Board of Elections approved the use of 50 drop boxes throughout the County. A total of 34 municipalities have signed agreements to have the County install a drop box. She noted it has been a challenge obtaining needed surveillance equipment, in particular solar panels, to complete the total installation. Ten (10) solar panels have been received with another 30 more expected to arrive tomorrow. Should the remaining solar panels not be delivered by the vendor as promised, Ms. Jackson asked if the Board would allow the drop boxes to be staffed by persons until the solar panels could be installed to power the surveillance cameras. Additionally, once all the cameras were activated, she asked for approval to have a person do 24/7 active monitoring of all the video feeds. Mr. Byrne questioned Ms. Jackson regarding information she provided to the Pennsylvania Department of State and the Board regarding the installation of the drop boxes and, separately, the legal requirements for retrieval of ballots from the drop boxes. Ms. Lunkenheimer maintained that Mr. Byrne was conducting a legal examination of Ms. Jackson and that she was neither a witness nor represented by counsel. Ms. Lunkenheimer moved a motion to allow human staffing of drop boxes if electronic surveillance equipment was not available and seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Byrne moved a motion to table the discussion without it being seconded.

Carol Miller – asked about security measures, whether in the form of a camera or a person, would be in place at each drop box location; who is monitoring the service centers to guard against one person depositing multiple ballots into the drop box; when will a listing of drop box locations be published; whether election materials will be returned in Media or Chester; when will poll watcher certificates be available; when will a schedule of poll worker training sessions be published; how can the canvassing and ballot tabulation processes be observed; whether political materials can be provided in the area outside the building where voting occurs.

Richard Gibney – questioned whether police are allowed to staff poll locations; suggested they should be staffed by constables.

Paul Sandman – asked how a drop box cannot be considered an official polling place; are ballots counted after being collected from a drop box; who is monitoring the drop boxes.

Ray Falzone – Asked how long the public has been dropping off ballots; asserted that the election code only allows a person to bring in their own ballot and drop boxes haven't been monitored; commented it took six hours for a judge of elections to return election materials in June.

Amy Sandman – Suggested both a camera and person should be deployed to monitor drop boxes.

Ryan Dance – Sought clarification of the motion on the table regarding use of County employees or park police to monitor drop boxes; whether drop boxes can be placed on municipal property or in highly visible areas on private property; whether other technology options been explored beyond solar for monitoring drop boxes; whether people monitoring the drop boxes keep hourly logs of activity observed.

Tom Quigley – Questions related to what information is identified by the bar codes on ballots; how can drop boxes prevent one person depositing multiple ballots; potential fraud; when will scanning of returned ballots begin to acknowledge receipt.

Marion Taxion – Will a voter be given a regular ballot at a poll location if the envelope containing a mailed ballot is opened?

The motion to allow human monitoring of drop boxes by County employees when technological surveillance was not available carried with Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Lunkenheimer voting yes and Mr. Byrne voting no.

Mr. Lunkenheimer moved that Election Board employees or constables could monitor surveillance video of drop boxes if park police were unavailable to do so and seconded by Mr. Byrne. The motion carried with the unanimous vote of Board members to approve it.

Poll location changes. Mr. Savage detailed the following proposed poll location changes:

1. Bipartisan agreement to move Upper Darby 3-9 to Hillcrest Elementary School.
2. Bipartisan agreement to move Springfield 2-1 to the Office Suites at Stoney Creek.
3. Voting Machine Warehouse recommendation to move Aston 1 to the Aston Community Center.

Ms. Lunkenheimer moved a motion to accept the poll location changes as presented and Mr. Byrne seconded. The motion passed with the unanimous vote of the Board to approve it.

Tabulation staff compensation. Mr. Lawrence highlighted a request by Mr. Savage to increase the pay for tabulation staff workers from the current level of \$75/day, which was equal to the daily rate poll workers earned before receiving a pay increase. Ms. Lunkenheimer moved a motion to increase the daily rate for tabulation staff workers to \$140/day to match what poll workers currently earned with the additional provision of tabulation workers continuing to receive breakfast and lunch and Mr. Byrne seconded. The motion carried with the unanimous vote of Board members to approve it.

Poll worker staffing. Given anticipated high voter turnout for the general election, Ms. Iacono requested permission to hire election board assistants at poll locations whose duties would include helping to set up voting equipment, keeping lines orderly, assisting with social distancing, and sanitizing what voters touch throughout the day. These individuals would be helpers rather than members of local election boards and could not function as poll watchers. A discussion ensued regarding the legality and need for deploying helpers inside the polls in the proposed manner. Ms. Lunkenheimer moved a motion to recommend that County Council

consider funding these new positions, pending consultation with the health department about the clinical safety concerns raised by the plan and the need for the workers and Mr. Byrne seconded. The motion carried with Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Lunkenheimer voting yes and Mr. Byrne voting no.

Ms. Iacono also proposed having an emergency list of back-up poll workers who would be trained and on call from 6:00 a.m. until 12 noon to fill unexpected poll location vacancies due to local election board members potentially being unable to perform their duties due to the pandemic. A discussion ensued about paying people to be on call in addition to being compensated if called to work at a poll location. Ms. Lunkenheimer moved a motion to recruit up to 125 people who would be paid \$130 to complete training and agree to be on call on election day. The motion carried with the unanimous vote of Board members to approve it.

Board of Elections report. Ms. Hagan reported that 122,400 ballot requests have been processed to date, approximately 113,440 ballots have been mailed out and approximately 1,860 have been completed and recorded as received. Poll watcher certificates continue to be processed with some available to be picked up. Work continues to reduce a backlog related to approximately 5,000 paper ballot applications and 8,000 – 9,000 online applications, which were all received in just the last week. More help processing ballot requests would be appreciated to continue reducing the backlog.

Voting Machine Warehouse report. Mr. Savage reported that logic and accuracy testing of precinct-level voting equipment was completed ahead of the October 19th deadline.

Voter Registration report. Ms. Winterbottom reported that Monday, October 19th is the last day to register to vote in the general election. There are currently 417,000 registered voters in the system. Approximately 60,000 new voter registration applications have been processed since June 3rd.

Mr. Lawrence adjourned the meeting after stating there was no other business or public comments to consider.