

Board of Elections Meeting

February 11, 2020

Commissioner Deb Baughman, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

The following members were present: Deb Baughman, Chair; Josh Lang and Rick Smith. Others present: Debra Brown, Director of Elections; Angie Ferguson, Administration; and the press.

Commissioner Baughman noted this was the first meeting and spoke briefly about the Act 77 changes and procedures for the 2020 election.

Review Department of State Guidance:

- a. Voter registration – Commissioner Baughman noted that the time has been lengthened to fifteen days before the election (April 13, 2020). Angie Ferguson commented that since November 2019 through February 12, 2020 there has been approximately 250 new applications. Commissioner Lang commented that some of these could be change of party and address changes as well. He also stated that the deadline for April 13, 2020 is up until that day, post marks are no longer permitted. The office remains open until 5:00 p.m. on that date. The office also calls the post office just to check if there are more applications.
- b. Mail – In ballots (this is new) is open to anyone who will be away on vacation or whoever just doesn't wish to go to the polls. Voters may apply for the Mail-In application 50 days prior to the election date.
- c. Absentee ballots are for persons with a disability or that will be out of the municipality during the election and cannot get to the polls. This is a one-time process and must have physician signature on form.
- d. Federal Write-In Absentee – Debra Brown explained the process and noted that all the ballot information is on the website.
- e. A list of the party offices for Primary 2020 Election was provided to the board.

Deadlines:

- a. The deadline for petitions is February 18, 2020
- b. The last day to apply for Mail-In ballots is April 21, 2020 by 8:00 p.m. in the office election night.
- c. The last day to apply for Absentee ballots is April 21, 2020 by 8:00 p.m. in the election office on election night.
- d. Commissioner Baughman talked about the following:
 1. Each year the county must send an application to any voter on the permanent absentee and mail-in voter lists by the first Monday in February.
 2. The yearly application serves as a standing request for any election that calendar year until the third Monday in February the next year.

3. Important changes:

- a. A voter who has returned a mail-in or absentee ballot may not vote at the polling place Election Day.
- b. If a voter requests but does not return their mail-in or absentee ballot, they may still deliver the ballot in person to the county elections office until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- c. If a voter cannot return the ballot in person, the voter can vote in person at the voter's polling place only by provisional ballot.

New Equipment:

- a. Three new machines are here, 40 more will be shipped to the courthouse.
- b. The office is in the process of scheduling trainings; hopefully will be able to get out to senior centers and various areas in the community to do demonstrations. Commissioner Lang noted that one could be done at the Town Hall meeting on March 31, 2020 at the Hyndman Fire Hall. He also, recommended a video for the website.
- c. The office is also going to be scheduling poll worker training; morning and evening time frames will be done to accommodate people that work.

Comments:

In the packet there is information regarding optional county services which include alternative ways to make it more convenient for residents to get their mail in or absentee ballots to the office. Debra Brown and Commissioner Baughman had discussed previously the option of drop boxes and that there is no secure area in which to do this and be compliant with the Department of State.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Lang to adjourn. Commissioner Baughman seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Debra Brown, Director of Elections

Deb Baughman, Chair of Elections