

Board of Elections Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Commissioner Baughman.

Members Present: Commissioner Deb Baughman, Commissioner Josh Lang, and Rick Smith.

Others present: Dean Crabtree, Solicitor, Debra Brown, Director of Elections and Angie Ferguson.

Via phone: Lloyd Roach and Randy Delozier.

Reports:

Grant Money: Commissioner Baughman reported on the grant money that was available to the county from the Department of State. This money is to help with the expenses for election security (\$26,205.97) and one through the Cases Act Grant (\$22,456.23) for poll worker needs.

Commissioner Lang stated that if any more PPE needed to be ordered to please do so as soon as possible, that he needed all the invoices to submit for the grant no later than May 22, 2020.

Commissioner Baughman stated that she had reached out to a company in Somerset and was able to get hand sanitizer. Bette Slayton also reached out to companies and 2 companies (Kennametal and MDL) donated goggles.

New Voters: Deb Brown reported that as of this date, there are 402 new voters. Angie Ferguson stated May 18, 2020 is the last to register to vote and May 26, 2020 is the last day for absentee ballot and mail-in ballot applications. They must be in by 5:00 p.m.

Polling place and poll worker needs: Poll workers will be provided the proper PPE and cleaning supplies for the election. The maintenance department will mark the floors with yellow tape for social distancing, plus put wedges in the doorways to prevent people touching doorknobs.

Poll worker training: Deb Brown will send out a letter to all poll workers to select a date and time for one-on-one training. It will include quick reference guide and a sheet showing what the poll books will show regarding absentee and mail in voters. A sign has been created for each precinct regarding social distancing as well. Commissioner Lang has recruited employees to help as well to fill in where poll workers are needed. Poll workers must be registered voters in order to work at the precincts.

Election Security: Commissioner Lang discussed the technology related to Act 77 for the election. Lloyd Roach asked if mail-in applications will continue, Commissioner Lang responded yes under the Act 77, it will continue. He also stated that following the Department of State guidelines, that IT requirements are compliant, there are no issues regarding security. The mail-in request was reviewed: request a ballot, ballots are tracked by bar code on labels created by state (no two are alike), when the ballots are returned, the bar code is scanned as returned, it is marked in the poll books, no duplication, if a person tries to vote 2 times it is reported to the judicial system. Commissioner Baughman stated there is a drop off box on the second floor that is available during business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for people not wanting to go to the polls and that every vote is counted.

Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

Commissioner Lang made the motion to approve the Resolution to consolidate and temporarily move polling locations for the June 2, 2020 Primary election. The motion was seconded by Rick Smith. Commissioner Lang read the resolution. This must be submitted to the state 15 days prior to the election and must be posted. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF
BEDFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania General Assembly recently enacted and Governor Wolf signed into law legislation known as Act 12 of 2020 that rescheduled the 2020 Primary Election to June 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Act 12 also authorizes counties, among other things, to consolidate up to 60% of its polling place locations without court approval and to obtain approval from the Department of State to further consolidate polling place locations in excess of 60% based upon necessitous circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Bedford County currently has 40 precincts; and

WHEREAS, the Bedford County Board of Elections finds as follows:

A large majority of the members of the local election boards within Bedford County are senior citizens, the segment of the population most susceptible to the COVID-19 virus. Due to their fear of being exposed to the virus, many members of the local election boards have stated either that they will not serve or are reluctant to serve on Primary Election Day. Accordingly, there is a strong likelihood that some local polling districts will not have local election board members sufficient to properly conduct the June 2 Primary Election; and

Some owners and operators of polling place locations also have indicated that they will not permit local boards of election to operate out of their building due to concerns regarding exposure to and contamination from the COVID-19 virus; and

Some polling locations do not meet social distancing standards in effect during the pandemic

The County has undertaken extraordinary efforts, including marketing efforts, to urge voters to participate in the June 2 Primary Election by utilizing the available mail-in ballot option; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Elections of Bedford County, Pennsylvania, acting at a duly authorized public meeting, hereby resolves as follows:

1. In order to make in-person voting as efficient as possible, Bedford County respectfully requests that the Department of State authorize the County to proceed with a consolidation and relocation of its polling places within the 60% limit allowed in Act 12 for the June 2, 2020 Primary Election only based upon the following plan:

- a. One polling place for Saxton Borough and Liberty Township to be located in the Saxton Fire Hall; 504 8th Street, Saxton, PA

- b. Move polling locations within the same precinct, if possible, to accommodate social distancing:

Hopewell Borough:

FROM: Hopewell Senior Center, Hopewell

TO: Hopewell Borough Municipal Building
417 Broad Street, Hopewell, PA

Hopewell Township:

FROM: Hopewell Township Municipal Building

TO: 2510 Raystown Road, Everett, PA (formally MDJ Bakers Office)

- c. The number of polling places indicated above may increase as is deemed necessary by the Bedford County Board of Elections to maximize the safety and efficiency of the electoral process and voter participation.

- d. The County Board of Elections is directed to take steps to ensure that all polling place locations are accessible and compliant with all applicable laws. If a facility is not suitable for use as a polling place location, then the County Board of Elections shall determine and secure an alternative location within that municipality.

2. The authorized representatives of the Bedford County Board of Elections are hereby directed to immediately transmit this Resolution and all necessary accompanying information to the Pennsylvania Department of State to obtain all required approvals as required by law.

RESOLVED AND ENACTED this 8th day of May 2020.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Lang made a motion to adjourn. Rick Smith seconded.

Debra Brown, Director of Elections

Deb Baughman, Board of Elections, Director

