Monroe County Election Board Meeting

Thursday, October 5, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Nat U Hill Room & via Zoom

I. Call To Order

The Monroe County Election Board was called to order by Board Chairperson Henry. Also

present were Board Member Benckart, Clerk Nicole Browne, County Attorney Molly King-Turner,

and Election Supervisor Ryan Herndon. Voting Registration Clerk Sheryl Langdon took the roll.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Henry asks for approval of September 7, 2023, minutes. Board Member Benckart

motioned to approve the minutes and Clerk Browne seconded it.

**Motion Passed Unanimously.**

III. New Business

Clerk Browne opened the discussion concerning the beginning of voting for election season

on October 11, 2023.

She notified the board about a recent mistake of overpayment to two leads who work early

voting/Election Day and was concerned about poll worker pay for elections. She invited two

Absentee Leads to speak on election pay for all workers. Chairperson Henry proposes a time

limit. Board member Benckart motions a 15-minute time limit. Chairperson Henry seconds the

motion.

**Motion Passed Unanimously.**

Mr. Henry asks for County Attorney Molly King-Turner’s insights into this new event concerning

pay. She responds with her own desire to amend any pay discrepancy for election workers to

align with state statutes at the county level by requesting additional information pertaining to

job descriptions and details that are important in determining those new wages. Chairperson

Henry asks Clerk Browne to introduce the two election workers who are present at the meeting.

John Letner and Peg Roberts introduce themselves. Mr. Letner describes the functions of his

job and Ms. Robert’s duties in the six weeks prior to first day of early voting concerning

updating master lists for poll workers, contacting past workers, having meetings at Election

Headquarters, working at home, onboarding for each poll worker, finalizing work schedules,

training workers and the extra work performed during early voting. Mr. Letner reminds the

board that other duties are performed by the leads concerning the role of the inspector during

early voting.

Board Member Benckart asks Ms. King about the amount being paid correctly according to state

law. Ms. King breaks it down to absentee boards, early voting absentee boards, counters, and

absentee board leads. The statute says entitlement to a per diem to be set by the County

Council. The county salary ordinance only covers Election Day per diem. Mr. Henry asks Ms. King

about the board’s role in the conversation. Mr. Henry addresses that the wage conversation

needs to be held in another forum and is probably not meant for the Election Board meetings.

He felt the Election Board does not have jurisdiction over wages and job descriptions.

Clerk Browne responds that the present budget for election has always been done this way for

several administrations and it has been judiciously administered with no problems in the past.

Ms. King confirmed to Ms. Benckart that the County will be paying the election workers for this

election as they have always been paid in the past. Mr. John Letner brings more context to the

importance of ordinance language. Mr. Henry agrees with Mr. Letner. Clerk Browne reminds

everyone about the first day of early voting concerning Columbus Day affecting the first day. Ms.

Browne addresses Election Supervisor Herndon about any updates for early voting. He makes a

reminder that candidates complete the CFA 4 form by October 20, 2023. Mr. Herndon reports

that machines tested at 100% accuracy.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Chairperson Henry sends the floor to Board Member Benckart concerning appointments

for the center study committee updates.

Board Member Benckart gives her list. Her list includes William Ellis, Danny Shields, and

Taylor Bryant to represent the Republicans. Clerk Browne mentions having another person in

mind and will have that information by the next opportunity. Chairperson Henry offers up

another appointee. His student appointee is Evan Nayee. It is established that a steering voting

committee can now meet in person with a quorum of six people necessary to be noticed and

opened to the public. Chairperson Henry makes a motion to the names of the four appointees

mentioned in this meeting to the center study committee. Board Member Benckart moves, and

Clerk Browne seconds the motion.

**Motion Passed Unanimously.**

B. Chairperson David Henry makes a motion to direct staff to reach out to appointees to start

their work.

Motion to include notices and locations of those public meetings. Board Member

Benckart seconds the motion. Motion Passed Unanimously.

C. Board Member Benckart asks about the cost of the referendum vote. Clerk Browne

informs that there is a formula and will be able to provide a cost to the schools.

D. Chairperson Henry asks about the status of the Monroe County Voter website. Election

Supervisor Herndon responds with the notice that the TSD has been instructed to put on the

county website the forms, dates, times, etc. It is updated for the public viewing and use.

V. Public Comment – none

VI. Motion to Recess

Chairperson Henry asks for a motion to recess. Board member Benckart seconded the motion.

All members voted in favor of recess unanimously. The meeting recessed at 2:30 p.m.

Next County Election Board Meeting

**Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.**

Nat U Hill Room, 3rd Floor, Monroe County Courthouse

A recording of this meeting is available at Community Access Television Service (CATS). http://catstv.net