

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ray Lembke called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Director Hemmer-Haight led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call

Ray Lembke – Chair – Yes

Rick Combs – Yes

Gregg Conrad – Yes

Richard Grant – Yes

Also present were Director Stephanie Hemmer-Haight, Deputy Director Chris Dennison and Administrative Assistant Cherie Wilson.

III. Motion to Adopt the Agenda as Presented Amended

Mr. Grant asked to add an agenda item to discuss Wayne Township polling locations. Mr. Lembke suggested adding this discussion prior to the Executive Session.

2024-1 – Mr. Grant made the motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

IV. Other attendees – Julia Carney (Assistant County Prosecutor)

V. Public participation – none.

VI. Approval of Bills as of January 17, 2024

2024-2 – Mr. Combs made the motion to approve payment of the bills as of January 17, 2024. Mr. Grant seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

VII. Review of Write-In Petitions for Primary Election – March 19, 2024

Director Hemmer-Haight read the names of the write-in candidates who had filed:

- 1) Elizabeth J. Jones – Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas
- 2) Melissa Bodner – County Democratic Central Committee – GN-G

2024-3 – Mr. Conrad made the motion to accept the two write-in candidates. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

Mr. Lembke noted that, in order to advance to the general election ballot, write-in candidates must receive at least as many primary votes as they would have needed petition signatures for their office.

Mr. Grant indicated that he had received a phone call about the former Wayne Township polling location (municipal building) from Teresa Hanners, one of the trustees. She said extra locks have been added to the doors and the roof has been repaired; they are getting bids to replace it. Ms. Hanners would like to move precincts B & C back to that location, however there is dissent among the trustees.

Ms. Carney indicated that the replacement roof will not be finished for at least 4-5 months. The township will need an architect, then bids, in addition to the time to complete the roofing work.

The board asked the directors whether there had been any negative feedback or complaints from the November election. The directors are not aware of any complaints from the citizens who voted in person. The PEOs expressed positive feedback about the combined polling location during both the August and November elections. Mr. Grant will verify that the fire chief's parking concerns have been addressed; specific entrance and exit signage could further assist the traffic flow. The directors plan to conduct an ADA review of the municipal building before they consider using it again.

VIII. Executive Session

2024-4 – At 10:14 a.m., Mr. Combs made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss compensation of a public employee or official, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §121.22(G)(1). Mr. Grant seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes
Mr. Conrad – Yes
Mr. Grant – Yes
Mr. Lembke – Yes

The four board members, plus the director and deputy director were present at the executive session. Ms. Carney left the meeting prior to the executive session.

2024-5 – At 11:31 a.m., Mr. Grant made the motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes
Mr. Conrad – Yes
Mr. Grant – Yes
Mr. Lembke – Yes

2024-6 – Mr. Combs made the motion to give the staff a 5% increase in pay – retroactive to the beginning of the year – as recommended by the director and deputy director in accordance with the budget provided by the county commissioners. Mr. Grant seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes
Mr. Conrad – Yes
Mr. Grant – Yes
Mr. Lembke – Yes

2024-7 – Mr. Combs made the motion to increase the pay to \$15 per hour for all of our temporary part-time employees. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes
Mr. Conrad – Yes
Mr. Grant – Yes
Mr. Lembke – Yes

IX. Directors' Report:

- OAEO conference summary
Director Hemmer-Haight noted that the conference was very informative. There were good breakout sessions on local options, campaign finance, poll workers, and chargebacks, among others. The tentative dates for the SOS summer conference are June 25-26.
- Three vendors to demonstrate EPBs
Deputy Director Dennison has scheduled three vendors to demo the electronic poll books that are certified by the Ohio SOS. Representatives from Tenex, ES&S, and Knowink will make separate presentations and bring equipment for hands-on use. Mr. Combs asked if ISD would attend the sessions; Deputy Director Dennison will invite ISD and will email a schedule of the sessions.

Deputy Director Dennison reported that Captain Goslin is arranging a deputy detail for early voting. He will have someone here on 2/21 when early voting begins; we can reassess and augment the schedule as needed.

Mr. Lembke noted that there was a recommendation at the OAEO conference to speak to various law enforcement jurisdictions about providing increased patrols and security for the polling locations on each Election Day. Mr. Combs suggested that someone attend the Clermont County Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association meeting at the sheriff's office because multiple departments and jurisdictions are represented. Mr. Lembke volunteered to attend the association meeting and request security patrols.

Mr. Combs recommended asking for a deputy to speak at PEO training to raise awareness of security tips and protocols. Part of an initial training session could be recorded for replay at later sessions.

X. Upcoming Events and Meeting Dates

- February 2 – UOCAVA ballots sent FWAB posted (46 days before primary election)
- February 20 – Voter registration deadline
- February 21 – Early in-person voting begins
- **February 21 (Wednesday) 10:00 am – Regular monthly board meeting and Public Test**
- March 19 – Primary Election Day – polls open 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

XI. Motion to Adjourn

2024-8 – At 11:50 a.m., Mr. Combs made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion.


Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

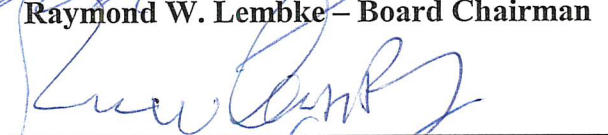
Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

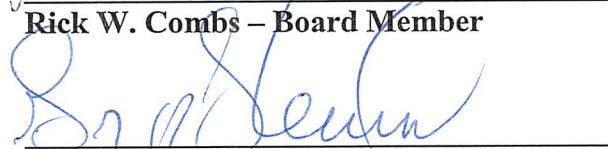
Mr. Lembke – Yes



Raymond W. Lembke – Board Chairman



Rick W. Combs – Board Member



Gregg L. Conrad – Board Member



Rick Grant – Board Member

Date 2/21/2024

