

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ray Lembke called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Mr. Grant 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

2024-9 – Mr. Conrad made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Combs 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). Kenny Henning (SOS Liaison) joined the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

V. Public Test for Special Election – March 19, 2024

Pursuant to R.C. §3506.14(B), the board recessed at 10:04 a.m. while Mr. Grant and Mr. Conrad observed the director, deputy director and assistant run the test deck through the DS-850 ballot scanner.

At 10:37 a.m., the board returned from recess. Deputy Director Dennison read the results from the newly run report while Mr. Combs compared them to the control sheet. The board found that the report showed one extra overvote, likely due to stray particles or paper dust causing interference.

The board recessed at 10:42 a.m. After clearing and cleaning the scanner, the test deck was run again with the same personnel and observers.

The board resumed at 11:26 a.m. The board found that the results matched and that the DS-850 ballot scanner was counting accurately. The board signed and dated the reports.

2024-10 – Mr. Grant made the motion to accept the results of the Public Test for the March 19, 2024 primary election. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

VI. Public participation – none

VII. Approval of Minutes

- November 28, 2023 – Certification Meeting
- December 4, 2023 – Opening Audit / December 8, 2023 – Certify Audit Meeting
- December 22, 2023 – Residency Hearing – Chambers
- December 22, 2023 – Residency Hearing – Combs
- December 22, 2023 – Certify 2024 Primary Petitions and Regular Monthly Board Meeting
- January 17, 2024 – Regular Monthly Board Meeting

2024-11 – Mr. Grant made the motion to approve all six sets of minutes. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

VIII. Approval of Bills as of February 21, 2024

Regarding the PEO snacks, Mr. Combs asked whether they are usually provided. Director Hemmer-Haight confirmed that we have snacks and water available for each PEO training session.

2024-12 – Mr. Grant made the motion to approve payment of the bills as of February 21, 2024. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:
Mr. Combs – Yes
Mr. Conrad – Yes
Mr. Grant – Yes
Mr. Lembke – Yes

IX. Campaign Finance Referrals

Director Hemmer-Haight shared the attached list of late filings for the board to consider for campaign finance referrals.

2024-13 – Mr. Combs made the motion to refer the committees on the attached list provided by the director to the Ohio Elections Commission. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:
Mr. Combs – Yes
Mr. Conrad – Yes
Mr. Grant – Yes
Mr. Lembke – Yes

X. Directors' report

a. Election update

Director Hemmer-Haight reported that early voting kicked off this morning; it has been smooth and quiet so far, with about 20 voters prior to the meeting. Deputy Director Dennison indicated that there have been no printer issues yet; ES&S did replace the ballot stock, and we have adjusted some settings. We have mailed 1,095 ballots as of this morning.

Mr. Lembke asked about Joe Wessels' withdrawal; we have prepared the required notifications for early voting, absentee mail and polling locations. Any votes marked for him will not be counted.

b. Total Registered Voters - 146,581 (2020- 148,994 registered voters)

c. Union Township Civic Center

Director Hemmer-Haight mentioned that Union Township has a new administrator, Cory Wright, who has requested that we do not use the gym on Election Day. Per a conversation with Service Director Matt Taylor, that would mean splitting the precincts between rooms on two levels. The directors will meet with Mr. Wright tomorrow to discuss further logistics. Mr. Combs suggested including Ms. Carney in the meeting, as it is the legal responsibility of the trustees to provide a voting location for the township that works effectively.

d. Wayne Township Administration Building

Director Hemmer-Haight plans to schedule an ADA visit after the March election.

Mr. Combs raised the issue of the BOE parking lot; it needs to be repaired and striped. Director Hemmer-Haight has emailed Wade Grabowski (County Facilities) about the parking lights; she will forward the email to the board members. The last week of early voting has extended hours; after the 3/11 time change, it will be dark when we open and during the evening voting hours. Mr. Grabowski is investigating lighting options – the existing lights are rusty and very fragile, so not easily replaced.

Mr. Combs inquired about Becky Rudd's retirement date. Becky expects to retire December 31st; Director Hemmer-Haight indicated plans to post a job opening for the position soon. Mr. Lembke recommended that someone shadow her at least through the November presidential election. Mr. Combs and the board commented on how helpful she has always been and discussed possible options for recognizing her.

Mr. Henning noted that the SOS summer conference is scheduled for June 25-26 at the Columbus Hilton downtown.

XI. Upcoming Events and Meetings

- February 21 – Early in-person voting begins
 - February 21-23 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 - February 26 - March 1 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 - March 4-8 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 - March 9 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 - March 11 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 - March 12 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
 - March 13-15 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 - March 16 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 - March 17 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- March 8 – Observer appointment deadline
- March 19 – Primary Election Day (polls open 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.)
- March 19 – Rescheduled monthly board meeting at 8:00 a.m.
- March 23 – Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail must be postmarked no later than March 18 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted
- April 1 – Open official canvass (9:00 a.m.)
- April 5 – Certify March 2024 primary election (3:00 p.m.)
- April 17 – Regular Monthly Board Meeting and open audit (9:00 a.m.)

Mr. Conrad mentioned collecting a box full of shingles that had fallen off of the Red Barn roof. Apparently the county is responsible for replacing the roof at an estimated \$20,000 to \$25,000. We are paying \$3800/month to rent the building and have \$2 million of equipment at risk if it leaks. Several board members commented that replacing a roof is throwing money away when the lease can be terminated upon 90 days' notice. There are media reports of plans to put apartments and walking trails there. The board reiterated our need for a building. Director Hemmer-Haight indicated that she had emailed Administrator Tom Eigel, who responded that they are still trying to hire consultant for the building needs of several departments, including the Board of Elections.

Mr. Lembke requested a copy of the red barn contract. He will draft another letter to the commissioners sharing the new information, and emphasizing the urgency of the situation. The board could file a mandamus action (requiring outside counsel) as a last resort, but wants to pursue all other possible avenues first.

XII. Adjournment

2024-14 – At 12:26 p.m., Mr. Grant made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Combs seconded the motion.

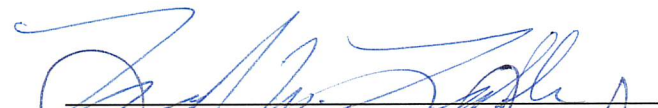
Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

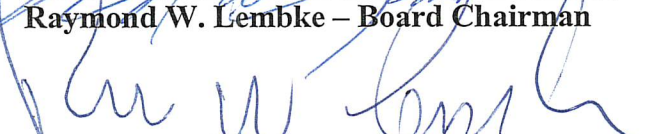
Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

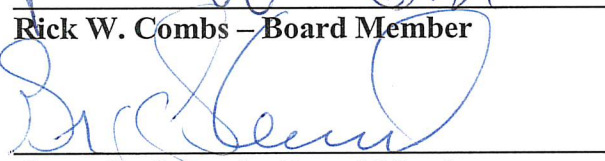
Mr. Lembke – Yes



Raymond W. Lembke – Board Chairman



Rick W. Combs – Board Member



Gregg L. Conrad – Board Member



Rick Grant – Board Member

Date 3-19-24

**APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2024**

VENDOR	DESCRIPTION OF PAYMENT	AMOUNT
INVOICES APPROVED BY BOARD MEMBERS:		
CULLIGAN	BOTTLED WATER - 2-1-24 TO 2-29-24	\$ 14.50
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	ELECTION SUPPORT - DAN SHEBESTA - JAN. 5th & 19th	\$ 3,950.00
STEPHANIE HAIGHT	REIMBURSEMENT - SNACKS FOR POLLWORKER TRAINING	\$ 250.46
RAY LEMBKE	REIMBURSEMENT - WINTER CONFERENCE	\$ 217.54
PITNEY BOWES	POSTAGE MACHINE - 11-28-23 TO 2-27-24	\$ 824.31
RB PRINTING	PRECINCT KITS - MARCH PRIMARY	\$ 5,664.33
RB PRINTING	VOTER ID CARDS - 40,000	\$ 3,078.40
RUEBEL FAMILY LIMITED	OFF SITE STORAGE - MARCH	\$ 3,800.00
STAFF SALARIES	PAY PERIOD 1-8-24 TO 1-21-24	\$ 21,023.41
BOARD MEMBERS SALARIES	PAY PERIOD 1-8-24 TO 1-21-24	\$ 2,572.48
STAFF SALARIES	PAY PERIOD 1-22-24 TO 2-4-24	\$ 22,103.92
BOARD MEMBERS SALARIES	PAY PERIOD 1-22-24 TO 2-4-24	\$ 2,572.48
PART TIME SALARIES	PAY PERIOD 1-22-24 TO 2-4-24	\$ 48.00
RETRO PAY	PAY PERIOD 1-22-24 TO 2-4-24	\$ 1,569.61
	TOTAL:	\$ 67,689.44
	Chairman's Signature	Date

Campaign Finance Referrals to the Ohio Elections Commission February 2024

Late filings for the November 2023 pre and/or post general reports

The 2023 pre general report was due October 26, 2023.

The 2023 post general report was due December 15, 2023

Maria Harp for Fiscal Officer – the post general/termination report was filed on February 9, 2024

Committee to Elect R. Aaron Maus – the post general report was filed December 19, 2023.

Scott Runck for Mayor – the pre general report was filed October 28, 2023 and the post general report was filed on January 10, 2024.

Vote Vilardo – The post general report was filed on December 27, 2023.

Robert Wooten for NR School Board – the post general report was filed on January 2, 2024.

Failure to file the 2023 semiannual report

The 2023 semiannual report was due July 31, 2023. (should the 31st fall on the weekend the report is due the last business day of July)

WE ARE NR - to date the report has not been filed.

Contributions or expenses before the designation of treasurer (DOT) form was filed

Committee to Elect Jim Weaver for Mayor – The DOT was filed on September 7, 2023. The committee received a contribution on September 5, 2023.

Bethel-Tate Fire/EMS Dept Levy Committee – The DOT was filed on October 24, 2023. The committee received a contribution on September 27, 2023 and had an expense on September 29, 2023.

Friends of Myra Powers – The DOT was filed on July 14, 2023. The committee received a loan and had an expense on July 11, 2023.

Cherie Wilson

From: Cherie Wilson
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 4:33 PM
To: info@clermontsun.com
Subject: February Board Meeting and testing schedule
Attachments: 2024 Feb 21 PUBLIC TEST LnA notice.docx

Megan,

Please be advised and post as a PSA (no cost) the attachment regarding the February meeting and public testing schedule.

My direct phone number is 732-7485 if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Cherie Wilson, Administrative Support Specialist
Clermont County Board of Elections
76 S. Riverside Dr.
Batavia, OH 45103

**Clermont County Board of Elections
Notice of Date for Public Test/L&A**

The Public Test for the March 19, 2024 Primary Election will be held during the next monthly board meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Board office: 76 S. Riverside Dr., Batavia, Ohio 45103.

The monthly meetings are for general purposes, including review of minutes and finances, election status, and any and all other matters that may come before the board.

Logic and accuracy testing for the 2024 Primary Election will be February 7-9 during business hours at 299 Haskell Lane, Batavia, Ohio 45103.

Ray Lembke – Chairman
Stephanie Hemmer-Haight – Director