

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

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

2022-19 – Mr. Grant made the motion to adopt the revised agenda as presented. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

IV. Other attendees – Brian Shrive – Assistant County Prosecutor, Jeremy & Sam Heroux – Integrated Voting Systems

V. Public participation – none

VI. Approval of Minutes

- January 26, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting
- February 11, 2022 – Special Board Meeting to Certify Petitions

2022-20 – Mr. Conrad made the motion to approve both sets of minutes. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

VII. Approval of Bills as of February 23, 2022

Mr. Lembke requested clarification of the DemocracyLive entry on the monthly bills. Deputy Director Dennison indicated that they provide the Remote Ballot Marking System that the board discussed in the January meeting; it is required by the SOS for ADA compliance.

2022-21 – Mr. Combs made the motion to approve payment of the bills as of February 23, 2022. Mr. Grant seconded the motion. Upon discussion, Mr. Grant asked if the Red Barn lease is now month-to-month. Mr. Combs mentioned that the county is considering the old Goodwill store on Grissom Road as a potential permanent site for the BOE offices and equipment. Director Hemmer-Haight noted that the building needs modifications, but is accessible from State Route 32 or back roads, and is already owned by the county. The board has been invited to visit the facility. Mr. Lembke asked what would happen if we get a 30-day notice on March 1st to vacate the Red Barn. It is the understanding of the directors that we could move equipment there quickly if needed, then potentially move the BOE offices at a later date. Mr. Combs suggested having a meeting with Tom Eigel, County Administrator, to ensure that he understands the deadline, the contingency plan, and the need to move quickly.

Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

VIII. Opening of Bids Received for the Printing of Ballots

Director Hemmer-Haight advised the Board that we received two sealed bids for printing ballots; the deadline to return bids was yesterday (2-22-2022) by 4:00 p.m. We also received an email from Oregon Printing Communications; however, it was not a sealed bid, and the company is still working with an insurance company to secure a bond. Mr. Lembke asked if the bid notice was clear that we needed hardcopy. Director Hemmer-Haight confirmed that the bid notice requires a sealed bid; specifically, it says that “the outer envelope containing the bid should be identified with **‘BID ENCLOSED’**”. Mr. Conrad and Mr. Grant opened the bid packets and read the details into the record as summarized below:

Vendor	Integrated Voting Systems (IVS)	ES&S
14"	\$180/1000 = \$0.18/ballot full duplex, black or color	\$0.25 color \$0.26 2-page \$0.46/\$0.47
17"	\$180/1000 = \$0.18/ballot full duplex, black or color	\$0.26 color \$0.27 2-page \$0.49/\$0.50
19"	\$180/1000 = \$0.18/ballot full duplex, black or color	\$0.31 color \$0.32 2-page \$0.59/\$0.60
Printed in Ohio?	Medina, OH	Yes, via Barrett Brothers
Insurance/Bond	Insured \$110,000 Bond not to exceed \$50 million	Insured, Bond amount \$522,000

Mr. Combs asked about the IVS product supply source; Mr. Heroux replied that IVS purchases ES&S ballot stock. Mr. Lembke commented that "qualified bidder" means the selected company can do the job. He asked if there was any non-monetary reason to prefer one bid over the other, given our experience from past elections that both companies are qualified. Mr. Grant asked if there had been only one set of ballots printed upside-down for the November 2021 election. Director Hemmer-Haight replied that to our knowledge, the Summerside Elementary ballots were the only ones with problems.

Mr. Lembke stated that the issue reduces to the lowest bidder (18 cents versus 26 cents per ballot) if there is no non-monetary reason to influence the decision otherwise. Deputy Director Dennison reported that both companies adequately label each box, and the ballots from both companies run through the machines well.

Mr. Grant asked if the bids are for the primary election or the entire year. Deputy Director Dennison clarified that each county is required to solicit bids for an entire calendar year. He asked Mr. Heroux about the supply chain issues and reports of potential paper shortages. Mr. Heroux assured the board that IVS purchases supplies for three elections in advance, and has more than sufficient stock to accommodate our needs.

2022-22 – Mr. Combs made the motion to accept the bid to print ballots for 2022 from Integrated Voting Systems, Inc. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

IX. Review of Write-In Petitions for Primary Election – May 3, 2022

2022-23– Mr. Grant made the motion to accept the withdrawals of Tom Dix for County Republican Central Committee WN-B, of William Mues for County Republican Central Committee MI-D, and of Becki Johnson for State Republican Central Committee Woman. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion.

- Upon roll call:
- Mr. Combs – Yes
 - Mr. Conrad – Yes
 - Mr. Grant – Yes
 - Mr. Lembke – Yes

The board discussed the requirement that Republican Central Committee write-in candidates receive at least five valid votes (the minimum petition signatures required for other candidates) to be elected.

2022-24– Mr. Combs made the motion that the following list submitted by the director and deputy director of the write-in candidates be accepted, with the exception of Richard J. Perry. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

Write-In Candidate	Office Sought
Richard J. Perry	State Rep. 63 rd District (Dem)
Gary A. Rosenhoffer	Central Committee Batavia Village A (Rep)
Christi Brown	Central Committee Loveland City A (Rep)
Blake Hirschauer	Central Committee Batavia Township D (Rep)
Roy Short Jr.	Central Committee Batavia Township E (Rep)
David Taylor	Central Committee Batavia Township F (Rep)
Sherry Lahm	Central Committee Batavia Township I (Rep)
Douglas Royce	Central Committee Batavia Township K (Rep)
Bradley Moore	Central Committee Batavia Township L (Rep)
Sandra Schaller-Birkemeyer	Central Committee Goshen Township A (Rep)
Jeff W. Scheadler	Central Committee Goshen Township F (Rep)
Bob Manning	Central Committee Miami Township G1G (Rep)
Nick Kelly	Central Committee Pierce Township J (Rep)
Kyle Kirker	Central Committee Union Township H (Rep)
Sherrie Blair	Central Committee Union Township K (Rep)
April Torres	Central Committee Union Township U (Rep)
Matthew B Beamer	Central Committee Union Township W (Rep)
Michael H. Handley	Central Committee Union Township B1B (Rep)
Jean Hirschauer	Central Committee Union Township B1B (Rep)
Stephen M. Spitler	Central Committee Union Township F1F (Rep)
Terry Lytle	Central Committee Union Township L1L (Rep)
Sheila Combs	Central Committee Union Township M1M (Rep)
April L. Sloan	Central Committee Union Township M1M (Rep)

Mr. Lembke discussed a recent conference call that he and election officials from other parts of Ohio had attended; some counties have already certified the candidates for State House of Representatives because the original SOS deadline was 2/14. SOS Directive 2022-03 issued on 1/31/22 sets the certification deadline as Wednesday, March 9, 2022. However, following the court's 2/7/22 ruling, a 2/11/22 email from Amanda Grandjean (Deputy Assistant Secretary of State) to the 88 boards of elections says "As you know, the Supreme Court invalidated the Ohio Redistricting Commission's map from January 22, 2022. As such, you are not able to certify any candidate petitions currently because there are currently no district maps for those races." The board discussed whether to proceed with certifying the unopposed primary candidates on both parties' ballots for both State House districts that incorporate Clermont County, and concluded that the deadline in Directive 2022-03 must be followed.

2022-25— Mr. Combs made the motion to certify the 62nd District State Representative petitions of Brian Flick (D) and Jean Schmidt (R), and to certify for the 63rd District State Representative the petition of Adam C. Bird (R) and the declaration of candidacy of Richard J. Perry (D) as a write-in for the primary currently scheduled for May 3, 2022. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:
Mr. Combs – Yes
Mr. Conrad – Yes
Mr. Grant – Yes
Mr. Lembke – Yes

X. Executive Session

2022-26 – At 10:45 a.m., Mr. Grant made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss compensation of public employees, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §121.22(G)(1). Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:
Mr. Combs – Yes
Mr. Conrad – Yes
Mr. Grant – Yes
Mr. Lembke – Yes

2022-27 – At 11:42 a.m., Mr. Combs made the motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Grant seconded the motion. Upon roll call:
Mr. Combs – Yes
Mr. Conrad – Yes
Mr. Grant – Yes
Mr. Lembke – Yes

The board reported that the only topic discussed in the executive session was employee compensation.

2022-28 –Mr. Combs made the motion that after reviewing the budget, the board has advised the director and deputy director to set salaries retroactive to January 1, 2022 for our employees currently on the rolls, and an employee expected to be hired in the upcoming weeks, based on the money provided by the County Commissioners, and to allocate that appropriation as discussed. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

XI. Director’s report

Director Hemmer-Haight provided additional information about the Henning building on Grissom Road that the county is considering as a future BOE location. The building has a loading dock, a dock leveler, and three garage doors, but would need modification for the trucks we use. Mr. Lembke asked if it had appropriate HVAC and security. Director Hemmer-Haight has spoken to James Taylor at Clermont DD. He reported a leak which would require cutting trees and repairing gutters before office occupancy; however, the building could safely store equipment in a different area. The board inquired about ADA compliancy and handicapped parking; the county would need to put ADA parking at the front entrance, and there is a corner lot that could possibly provide additional spaces.

Mr. Lembke asked if SOS authorization would be needed for a new BOE facility. Director Hemmer-Haight replied that the SOS weekly updates require a year’s notice for relocation unless it is impossible to do so, partly because the fiber line connection must be moved. However, we could transition in phases by moving equipment and training areas earlier, then relocating the office operations when the remodeling, fiber line connection, and other contingencies have been completed.

XII. Deputy Director’s report

Deputy Director Dennison gave a demo of some new website features to interested board members. He is continuing to work with Revize to fine-tune other components of the site.

XIII. Upcoming Events and Meeting Dates

- March 4 (4:00pm) – Deadline for Congress 2nd District to file (HB93)
- March 18 – UOCAVA absentee ballots to be ready (46 days before primary election)
- April 4 – Voter registration deadline – *office open until 9:00pm*
- April 5 – First day of early voting
W1:8-5; W2:8-5; W3:8-5; W4:8-7; Sat April 30:8-4: Sun May 1:1-5: Mon May 2:8-2
- April 22 – Deadline to file notice of observer appointments
- May 3 – Primary Election Day (polls open 6:30am - 7:30pm)
- Tuesday, June 28 and Wednesday, June 29, 2022 – SOS Summer Conference

Mr. Lembke raised the question of certifying the contested state central committee candidates during this meeting versus scheduling a separate meeting to do so. SOS Directive 2022-03 states that boards of elections are required to certify them by March 9, 2022.

2022-29 –Mr. Combs made the motion to reject the petition of Jean A. Chase for Republican State Central Committee Woman from the 14th Senate District because her circulator statement failed to include the number of signatures she witnessed. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

State Central Committee Candidates for 14th Ohio Senate District	
For Member of Democratic State Central Committee, Man	Randy E. Basham
For Member of Democratic State Central Committee, Man	Ben Brady
For Member of Democratic State Central Committee, Woman	Melissa Cropper
For Member of Republican State Central Committee, Man	Melvin A. Dean
For Member of Republican State Central Committee, Man	Chris Hicks
For Member of Republican State Central Committee, Man	Christopher Orleck
For Member of Republican State Central Committee, Man	Greg Simpson
For Member of Republican State Central Committee, Woman	Gloria Martin

The board discussed Christopher Orleck's failure to complete the election date on his petition, and concluded that the omission is not a fatal error; redistricting litigation has created considerable uncertainty regarding the date(s) of the primary election(s).

2022-30 – Mr. Conrad made the motion to accept the petitions for the 14th District State Central Committee candidates as listed above and to place them on the ballot for the primary election currently scheduled for May 3, 2022. Mr. Grant seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

The board noted that the current deadline under House Bill 93 to certify petitions for U.S. House of Representatives is March 9th, but we do not yet have petitions, nor do we know which county is most populous. Mr. Lembke suggested that we hold the March meeting on the regularly scheduled date of 3/23 unless we need to reschedule it based on updated SOS direction. Mr. Grant reminded the board that the April meeting will be held on 4/20 instead of 4/27.


Mr. Grant and Mr. Lembke informed the directors that there is an interested party who plans to submit a resume by the end of the week of February 25th. Director Hemmer-Haight noted that one of the non-partisan candidates we interviewed leans more Republican than Democrat, so she is not being considered for the currently open position.

Mr. Lembke expressed the board's thanks to the directors and the office personnel for their efforts to administer an election in such a difficult year.

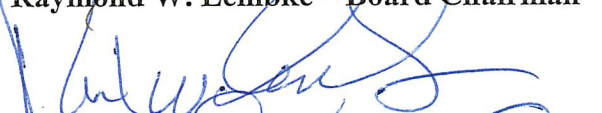
XIV. Adjournment

2022-31 – At 12:01 p.m., Mr. Grant made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion.

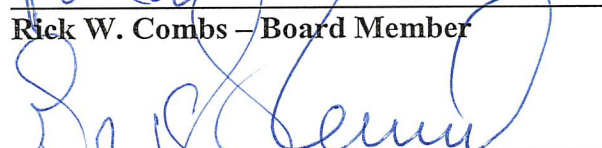
Upon roll call:
Mr. Combs – Yes
Mr. Conrad – Yes
Mr. Grant – Yes
Mr. Lembke – Yes



Raymond W. Lembke – Board Chairman



Rick W. Combs – Board Member



Gregg L. Conrad – Board Member



Rick Grant – Board Member

Date 3-23-2022

