

ATLANTIC COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 16, 2023, 5:30 PM

- I. **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:** Statement read by Chairperson Lynn Caterson
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Secretary John Mooney led pledge.
- III. **ROLL CALL:** Chairperson Lynn Caterson, Secretary John Mooney, Commissioner Mary Jo Coutts via ZOOM (later arrive in person 6:25 PM), and Commissioner Creed Pogue

Also present Office Staff: Clerk Bill Sacchinelli, Jenna Baruffi, Barbara DiMauro & Melissa Baez

- IV. **GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Commissioner Pogue lifts update of his mother's surgery and gives thanks to all that held a prayer in his mother's name.

- V. **READING & ADOPTION OF MINUTES:** A motion to approve the minutes from April 4, 2023 with amendments and changes, adding to section **X. New Business** c. Policy on Overtime (which codified a preapproval of certain types of overtime including participation of specific meetings and events authorized by the commissioners, prearranged training classes, etc.) also adding to section **XIII. Executive Session:** Contract Negotiations and Litigations

- **Motion:** Commissioner Pogue
- **Second:** Commissioner Coutts
- **Vote:** Unanimous

- VI. **EARLY PUBLIC COMMENT:** A motion to open early public comment. Atlantic County Clerk Joe Giraldo was in the audience. There were no comments.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Pogue
- **Second:** Commissioner Coutts
- **Vote:** Unanimous

Commissioner Pogue made a motion to close early public comment.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Pogue
- **Second:** Commissioner Coutts
- **Vote:** Unanimous

- VII. **CLERKS TO THE BOARD UPDATE:**

A. Election Preparation 2023 Primary

- a. **Drop Boxes:** Margate Drop was open effective March 27th, 2023, all other drop boxes were open April 24th, 2023. College drop boxes are subject to open for the General Election depending on county installation and security cameras. The board agrees Colleges may also advertise themselves of drop boxes being available on their campus. Margate drop box closed at 8PM on May 9th, 2023, and at once opened the next day. Jenna Baruffi is to contact Hudson County on the drop boxes and overlap election procedure.
- b. **Poll Workers:** 610 poll workers have successfully completed training to date.
- c. **Vote by Mail Ballots:** 4,046 thousand ballots for the Primary have arrived at our office.

B. Poll Worker Training Class Progress. 24 Poll Worker Training Classes were scheduled for the spring with an outstanding turnout in attendance, and only six classes still remain.

C. Debriefing on May Municipal Election- Margate-May 9th, 2023: Commissioner Pogue made a motion to approve the six spoiled ballots as being returned.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Pogue
- **Second:** Secretary Mooney
- **Vote:** Unanimous

Commissioner Pogue made a motion to reject the three not registered, one deleted, and two VBM returned.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Pogue
- **Second:** Commissioner Coutts
- **Vote:** Unanimous

Commissioner Pogue made a motion to reject the one ID Required-NO ID provided.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Pogue
- **Second:** Secretary Mooney
- **Vote:** Unanimous

Commissioner Pogue made a motion to reject the two transfers insufficient information.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Pogue
- **Second:** Secretary Mooney
- **Vote:** Unanimous

There were 13 E-poll Book Signature Error the vendor ES&S along with SOE are working together to resolve the discrepancy.

Clerk Sacchinelli turned in a report to the commissioners of his observations and concerns about the May Municipal Election, which included several suggestions.

D. Disposition of items in Buffalo Ave. Location: Work in progress

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Scheduling Dates to Review Ballots for 2023 Primary- The board has agreed to meet on June 6th, 2023, to review ballots.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion on R&V- Need for Contract: Secretary John Mooney made a motion to extend the contract to pay the outstanding balance.

- **Motion:** Secretary Mooney
- **Second:** Commissioner Coutts
- **Vote:** Unanimous

B. Possible BOE Subcommittees: Discussion has held for Commissioners to develop their own subcommittees to discuss specific issues/subjects such as annual budgets, policies, procedures, etc. Commissioner Pogue suggested that Ms. Baruffi should enquire what other counties might have in this regard while reaching out to those counties about their drop box procedures.

X. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Commissioner Pogue move to open public comment. There were none.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Pogue
- **Second:** Commissioner Coutts
- **Vote:** Unanimous

Commissioner Pogue move to close public comment.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Pogue
- **Second:** Commissioner Coutts
- **Vote:** Unanimous

XI. **WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE:**

XII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The board moved to go into executive session to further discuss certain Contracts negotiation, and litigation.

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

- **Motion:** Secretary Mooney
- **Second:** Commissioner Coutts
- **Vote:** Unanimous

C: File/mb