

Fayette County Election Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

Fayette County Election Bureau's Training Room

2 West Main Street, Suite 111, Uniontown, PA 15401, at 3:00 pm.

Silent Prayer or Moment of Reflection

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Election Board Members in attendance:

Robert Lesnick, serving as Chair

John Kopas, III

Mark Rowan, (attended via Zoom)

Also present:

Jack Purcell, Solicitor, Fayette County

Marybeth Kuznik, Director of Elections

Jessica Zele, Deputy Director of Elections

Meeting called to order by Robert Lesnick at 3:09PM

Public Comment of Agenda Item:

None

Review of Minutes of the July 27, 2023, and August 17, 2023, meetings

John Kopas moved to postpone the review until the next meeting.

Mark Rowan seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Review the results of the recount of the Republican County Commissioner race and any direction from the court.

Robert Lesnick requested that Marybeth Kuznik provide the recount results to the Board.

The results were as follows: 1484 ballots hand counted, one discrepancy was found in the hand count for Bullskin 1 which resulted in one extra vote for candidate Lohr but did not affect candidates Dunn, Grimm, or Marietta. There were no indications that this one vote was caused by the machine but may have been accorded to counting fatigue by the workers. All other vote totals remained the same.

John Kopas stated the petitioners did not present any evidence to the board initially, nor to the court, after doing the recount the issue raised was completely meritless.

Robert Lesnick conducted a demonstration using test ballots to show how the machines work and that bleed-through on the ballots does not adversely affect any races. Using an actual ballot with the words 'Test Ballot' written in red ink at the top of it, and the bar code redacted so that the ballot could not be read by any tabulator, Robert Lesnick filled in all of the ovals in every election contest on both sides of the ballot. He observed that bleed-through from any oval did not overlap into any oval on the other side, by design of the Dominion Voting Systems company.

Jack Purcell gave credit to the entire staff of the Election Bureau for working extremely hard on this recount while keeping the normal election process moving forward. He also thanked the Election Board, who are unpaid volunteers, they all have been very accommodating, and the county appreciates it.

Robert Lesnick stated that elections are partisan events, that's the nature of the election process, but the counting of the votes should never be, and should be as accurate as we can make it, with every vote counted. Most importantly, allegations of mistake or fraud or worse without any support hurt the public's perception of our democratic process. We've tried here to put to rest any such allegations as we initially had an open meeting where anyone could come forward with any specific allegations.

Following this discussion, the Board noted that they are still awaiting guidance or an Order from the Court of Common Pleas, so no action was taken.

Robert Lesnick concluded that the Board will wait to hear from Judge Wagner and offered his thanks to the entire Election Bureau staff, the other members of the Election Board, and both solicitors.

Adjournment

John Kopas moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Mark Rowan

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:29PM