
Warren County Board of Elections Meeting

March 4, 2013

4:30 PM

MINUTES

LEGAL NOTICE

The Reorganization Meeting of the Warren County Board of Elections was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by Chairwoman Gloria Decker.

The legal notice for this meeting was read by Mrs. Decker.

ROLE CALL

Present: Chairwoman Gloria Decker, Commissioner Harry Brown, Commission Tony Wyhopen and Board Administrator Bill Duffy. Absent: Commissioner Bob Stead.

Chairwoman Decker noted that Betty Schultheis, Mayor of Allamuchy, was also in attendance.

NEWSPAPERS

A motion was made by MR. Wyhopen that The Star Gazette be designated as the official newspaper of the Warren County Board of Elections to receive all notices of meetings as required under the Open Public Meetings Act and the Star Ledger and Express-Times are designated as alternate newspapers. This motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. This motion was passed by voice vote.

AFFIRMATION OF THE USE OF "ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER"

Mr. Brown made a motion to affirm that the Warren County Board of Elections would continue to use "Robert's Rules of Order" as parliamentary authority for procedure in meetings. This motion was seconded by Mr. Wyhopen and passed by a voice vote.

RESOLUTION –TIME LIMIT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Brown made a motion to define the maximum time allotted (per individual) for public comment to 10 minutes. After discussion concerning the amount of time and whether public comment should be split between Agenda Items and Open Time, Mr. Brown amended his motion to five (5) minutes per individual. Mr. Wyhopen seconded the motion. The motion was passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairwoman Decker opened the meeting for public comment. Mayor Schultheis asked which Warren County school districts, other than Allamuchy, were involved in the upcoming April 16th School Board Elections. Mr. Duffy stated that Greenwich School District would also be participating. Mayor Schultheis shared her belief that voter turnout for Allamuchy School Board Elections has been heavier in recent years due to having a “hands on” school superintendent. She added that public involvement is encouraged and culminates with an annual school “Open House” where the public can witness, first hand and within a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere, how public education is working within their community.

Additionally, Mayor Schultheis stated that she found recent criticism of the Board of Elections somewhat puzzling.

Discussion ensued regarding how voter turnout was amplified due to it being a Presidential/General Election as well as Superstorm Sandy.

MEETING MINUTES

The Board reviewed the Meeting Minutes of the February 5th, 2013. On motion by Mr. Wyhopen, and seconded by Mr. Brown, the Meeting Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

APRIL 16, 2013 SCHOOL ELECTION UPDATE

Mr. Duffy informed the Board that the Allamuchy & Greenwich School Districts would be participating with polls being open from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. and 2 p.m. – 9 p.m., respectively.

UPDATE

POLLING PLACES

Mr. Duffy gave an update regarding the following Polling Locations:

Harmony Township - Harmony Township Fire Hall

Harmony Township has requested that their current polling location, being the Harmony Township Municipal Building, be changed to the Harmony Fire Hall.

Greenwich Township - Stewartville Presbyterian Church

Mr. Duffy is waiting for approval from the Stewartville Presbyterian Church Council regarding the use of their Community Center as a polling location.

Phillipsburg 7th Ward (Districts 1.0 – 3.0) - Early Child Development Center - The center requested that the polling be moved to a different room within the facility. The new room would be closer to the entrance. Bill Duffy will visit the Center to determine if their request can be accommodated.

ANNUAL HANICAPPED ACCESS SURVEYS

Mr. Duffy stated that he is in receipt of several completed "Handicapped Access Surveys" and expects to receive the balance in the near future.

REORGANIZATION OF THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Mrs. Decker turned the meeting over Bill Duffy in order to hold the reorganization of the Warren County Board of Elections.

CHAIR

Mr. Duffy requested nominations for Chair of Warren County Board of Elections. Mr. Wyhopen nominated Bob Stead. Mr. Brown seconded the nomination. With no additional nominations or requests for discussion regarding this nomination, Harry Brown made a motion to close nominations which was seconded Mr. Wyhopen. By a voice vote nominations were closed. By a voice vote Mr. Stead was unanimously elected Board Chair.

SECRETARY

Mr. Duffy asked for nominations for the position of Warren County Board of Elections Secretary. Mrs. Decker nominated Harry Brown for Board Secretary. Mr. Wyhopen seconded the nomination. With no additional nominations or requests for discussion regarding this nomination, Mr. Wyhopen made a motion to close nominations which was seconded by Mrs. Decker. By a voice vote nominations were closed. By a voice vote Mr. Brown was unanimously elected Board Secretary.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Brown made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wyhopen seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with the motion passing unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.