

Reviewed by:



**ELECTION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 15, 2015**

Those present at the public meeting of the Venango County Election Board held in the Conference Room 100 of the Courthouse Annex:

Commissioner Bonnie Summers  
Robert Murray, Special Election Board  
Gerry McGuinness, Voter Registration  
Tim Brooks, Public

Denise Jones, Director of Elections  
Abby Flockerzi, Administrative Assistant  
Craig Adams, Public  
Deb Lutz, Public

The Election Board meeting was convened and adjourned prior to the start of the Retirement Board, Salary Board and Commissioner Board meetings.

**Call to Order:**

Commissioner Summers called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**Approval of the Minutes from the June 9, 2015 Meeting:**

Mr. Murray made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2015 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Summers, aye all.

**Public Comment on Agenda:**

There was no public comment offered on the Election Board agenda.

**Approval of Moving Polling Place for Cornplanter 1 District:**

The following item was presented for approval by the Election Board by Ms. Jones:

Approval of Moving Polling Place for Cornplanter 1 District – The Election Board has opted to move the polling location for Cornplanter 1 from the Cornplanter Volunteer Fire Department, located at 1050 Grandview Road, Oil City to the Christ Lutheran Church, located at 1029 Grandview Road. This facility offers generous parking, including several designated handicapped spots. The building is also handicapped accessible. If approved, this relocation will take effect with the General Election on November 3, 2015.

Mr. Murray made a motion to approve the above relocation, seconded by Commissioner Summers, aye all.

**Discussion on Electioneering on County Property Policy:**

This discussion stems from a letter received from Attorney Michael Hadley asking for the repeal of the policy addressing electioneering on County property. Attorney Hadley suggested this policy violates First Amendment rights of free speech.

Commissioner Summers stated that when she was at the employee level of the County it was difficult to have people come into her office and interfere with her work day and business operations asking her to sign petitions or soliciting sales of trinket type items. The real issue is solicitation. Perhaps instead of this being an election issue it should be a solicitation issue, taking this out of the hands of the Election Board.

Ms. Jones advised the Election Board members that the Commissioner Board members could repeal this policy; however they would want a recommendation from the Election Board.

After much discussion and consideration, it was decided there would be no action or recommendation at this time from the Election Board.

**Update on Student Poll Worker Program:**

Student Poll Worker packets have been distributed via email to the School District Superintendents and School Coordinators. The County has also been contacted by a student at Christian Life Academy expressing interest in being a poll worker. Information has been emailed to that student.

**Other Business:**

There was no other business conducted.

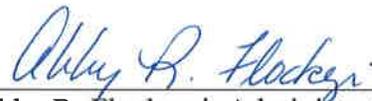
**Public Comment:**

Mr. Adams commented that the signs posted regarding the "No Electioneering" policy stating that the policy is vague. Mr. Adams asked where the County property was and said this has also contributed to the vagueness of the policy. He also asked for clarification on how voting occurs when a candidate is selected at a casting of lots as number two, yet shows up on the ballot as number one. Denise Jones explained that the coding was evidently in error, however the ballots on the machines are set up and voted by the name of the candidate – not on the number which the candidate pulled at the casting of lots. He also asked if the machines were still "unconnected". Ms. Jones assured him that they were. There are not wires, no networks, nothing to connect them to the internet or to another computer.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Murray, seconded by Commissioner Summers, aye all.

Respectfully submitted,



Abby R. Flockerzi, Administrative Assistant