

PORTER COUNTY ELECTION BOARD

155 INDIANA AVE., STE. 205

VALPARAISO, IN 46383

FEBRUARY 21, 2019

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call- JJ Stankiewicz, Dave Bengs, Jessica Bailey present. Quorum established. New Election Board Attorney Monica Conrad with law firm Lewis Kappes is welcomed and introduced. She will continue work former Attorney Ethan Lowe had begun. Minutes from 8/9/2017-1/29/2019 are reviewed, Stankiewicz motions to approve, Bengs seconds. Vote 3-0, motion passes.
3. Candidate Filings- Updated as of 2/21/2019, outstanding campaign finance reports list provided. Stankiewicz recommends imposing fine of \$50 per day. Bengs addresses prior procedure of providing notice of delinquency, if failure to respond timely, then request appearance at hearing, then assess fine and turnover to attorney. Practice adopted previously, proposed by current President Stankiewicz and supported. Stankiewicz motions to approve a 30 day notice to delinquent candidates. Kenard Taylor suggests sending out notices to candidates in advance with forms included. Bengs seconds motion. Vote 3-0, motion passes. Candidate challenge filed against Robert Hallmen for Portage Democrat City Common Council District 4. Candidate Robert Hallmen, challenger Brian Gulley, and Democrat Chairman Jeff Chidester present to speak on matter. To be addressed after election discussion.
4. 2019 Primary Discussion- Three resolutions to meet requirements under law for upcoming municipal election. The first resolution authorizes the use of electronic poll books and centralized count of absentee ballots (2019-01). The second allows to employ 16 and 17 year-olds as election workers with conditions such as 3.0 grade point average or above and written approval from parent (2019-02). The third allows inspectors to work more than one precinct with extra pay to accommodate (2019-03). Bengs motions to approve resolution 2019-01, Bailey seconds. Vote 3-0. Bengs motions to approve

2019-02, Bailey seconds. Vote 3-0. Bengs motions to approve 2019-03, Stankiewicz seconds. Vote 3-0, all three motions pass.

Contested races in four cities/towns for municipal primary election, Chesterton, Hebron, Portage and Valparaiso. No other towns have requested a primary, and no referendum has been filed as of 2/21/2019. Early voting sites are discussed, will not need Union Township as an early location since it is a municipal election. Bailey mentions major construction at Portage Clerk's Office. Bengs and Conrad state if early voting is moved from Portage Clerk's Office, the Valparaiso early voting will need to be moved to the Valparaiso Courthouse to comply with state code.

Stankiewicz asks for summary on purchase and installation of new equipment. Bailey informs all equipment has been delivered with exception of e-poll books which will be delivered next week. All going to permanent location next week. Early voting sites discussed. 2019 proposal consisting of sixty boards at forty-six locations. Stankiewicz motions to move document titled "2019 Municipal Primary Election" as part of the minutes. Bengs asks to leave Portage early voting location, although construction difficulty, may cause more difficulty having to move two early locations. Bengs motions to approve Portage as first early voting location, Stankiewicz seconds. Vote 3-0. Bengs motions to approve Portage North Government Complex as Clerk's choice, Stankiewicz seconds, vote 3-0. Bengs motions to approve Valparaiso Administration Building as second early voting location, Stankiewicz seconds, vote 3-0. Bengs motions to approve Chesterton Town Hall as third early voting location, Bailey seconds, vote 3-0. Bengs motions to approve Hebron Community Center as fourth early voting location, Bailey seconds, vote 3-0. All four early voting locations' motions pass.

5. Other- Candidate challenge against Robert Hallmen by Brian Gulley for Portage City Common Council District 4. Oath given to both Hallmen and Gulley. Gulley lists two ways on a "Declaration of Candidacy" to prove party affiliation; previous primary ballot requested, or certification from party chairman. Hallmen's voting history was provided with challenge. Hallmen admits he has voted republican in the past but considers himself to be a lifetime democrat. He believed his vote was secret. Stankiewicz points out that Hallmen requested a republican ballot in the 2018 primary election. Hallmen does not deny this. Jeff Chidester, Democrat Chairman since 2007, has never been asked for

consent from Robert Hallmen and is in support of the challenge. Hallmen states he called Chidester the day prior and was told Chidester could not support him on the ballot. Stankiewicz calls for a vote in support of the challenge. Bengs votes and explains that the presumption of party is based on last primary designation of which Mr. Hallmen voted republican. Mr. Hallmen states he is not wanted by either political party and feels disenfranchised. Asks why it is not made public when declaring a party in a primary that it will make him a republican. Stankiewicz again addresses the selection made by Mr. Hallmen on his declaration states he was a democrat candidate based on his previous voting history. Bailey votes to support the challenge as does Stankiewicz. Candidate challenge is supported with 3-0 vote.

6. Adjournment- Stankiewicz motions to adjourn, Bengs seconds. Vote 3-0, meeting adjourned.