

PORTER COUNTY ELECTION BOARD

155 INDIANA AVE., SUITE 105

VALPARAISO IN 46383

MARCH 23, 2023

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call – President Rausch, Vice President Lowe, Member Bengs, Member Chidester, Proxy for Secretary Bailey Kathy Hartwig – Quorum established.
3. Clerk’s Report – Couple of remaining updates are left and the Clerk’s App will be up and working, is expected to be complete before EV starts. Vote center amendments were sent to the Election Division and Secretary of State’s Office in Indianapolis.
4. Director’s Report – Co-Director Rauch. Office is busy getting ready for EV to start and for the election, they currently have successfully filled all positions but are always looking for additional staff.
5. Approval of Minutes – Chidester motions to approve, Lowe 2nd. Vote 5-0 motion passes.
6. Campaign Finance Reports –
 - a. Delinquent Reports – There are 2 outstanding annual amendments that are accruing \$10 per day, they were due by 3/21/23 at noon. They will both receive letters of notice to appear at the next hearing and they will receive the waiver and fine information if they choose not to appear and pay the fine.

Campaign Finance Hearings – EB Attorney Conrad swears in Co-Director Rauch. EB Attorney notifies EB that reports for candidate Frankie Harris and Brandon Croft are still outstanding and that she believes that Frankie Harris is present at the hearing. Valpo Dems are delinquent and defective with their report and she has not heard from them. There are also 3 waivers and payment for candidates Trueblood, Blaney and Reynolds that were received the EB Members will need to sign and there is no need for a hearing on those. Co-Director Rauch sets the records that Valpo Dems, Frankie Harris and Brandon Croft were all to appear at the last EB meeting and did not. President Rauch swears in Ronald Stone who appears on behalf of Brandon Croft as his Treasurer. EB holds discussion with Mr. Stone about report being delinquent. VP Lowe motions to set fine at \$100 with condition that campaign be dissolved by the end of this month, Chidester 2nd. Vote 5-0 motion passes. Member Chidester initiates discussion asking that the EB look into setting some kind of number on what amount of money is infused into this system when we do the hour’s/CM costs and hours put in by the Elections Office. Request is made to Co-Director Rauch to come up with some kind of number of hours/costs for the April EB Meeting. President

Rausch swears in Candidate Frankie Harris. Reports have been received and committee has been disbanded. Discussions held. Candidate Harris states she was not provided the information she thinks she should have been given by anyone about when reports were due and didn't believe she was instructed in class when reporter due dates. Campaign Class Instructor Kenard Taylor informs the EB that in class the candidates are shown power point's and that they are handed a copy of the power point that has the report due dates. As in past meetings it is noted that in no way is the Election Board or the Election Office under any obligation to provide any assistance or reminders, it is the responsibility of the candidate to educate themselves. Additional discussions held. President Rausch motions to fine \$50, Lowe 2nd. Vote 5-0 motion passes.

Valpo Dems called, no representative is present & waiver was not received. Fine is at maximum of \$100 for their outstanding annual report. Proxy Hartwig motions to default, Chidester 2nd. Vote 5-0 motion passes. 3 waivers were received to appear and fines were paid. Each waiver is approved separately. President Rausch motions to accept Trueblood's payment and waiver, Member Chidester 2nd. Vote 5-0 motion passes. President Rausch motions to accept Reynold's payment and waiver, Member Chidester 2nd. Vote 5-0 motion passes. President Rausch motion to accept Blaney's payment and waiver, Member Chidester 2nd. Vote 5-0 motion passes.

7. Upcoming Meetings – There has been a Sign Complaint filed, hearing on the complaint will be held after the Public Test on March 31st. Public Test starts at 8:00 a.m., hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Chambers. Next EB Meeting April 27th @3pm; Campaign Finance Class is April 5th from 5:30-7:30 in the Commissioners Chambers; next round of Campaign Finance Reports are due April 14th by noon, Early Vote starts April 17th. EB Attorney Conrad asks if the May EB Meeting could be held following the Election Certification on May 12th instead of May 25th so she can attend. Board agrees to change.
8. Other – Class Instructor Kenard Taylor provides update on Reverend Taylor's Report and update on upcoming training session, he provides copies of common errors to the EB.
9. Public Comment – Jennifer Klug and Laura Madigan address EB about Sign Complain they filed against candidate and the hearing that will be held on March 31st.
10. Adjournment – Member Lowe motions to adjourn, Member Chidester 2nd. Vote 5-0 motion passes.