

**PORTER COUNTY ELECTION BOARD
PUBLIC TEST OF ELECTION EQUIPMENT
PUBLIC HEARING ON SIGN COMPLAINT**

155 INDIANA AVE., EQUIPMENT ROOM/SUITE 105

VALPARAISO IN 46383

MARCH 31, 2023

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call – Rausch, Proxy Simpson, Bengs, Proxy Chidester, Bailey – Quorum established.
3. Public Test of Election Equipment – Secretary Bailey gives explanation of how the Public Test works and all present members of the Election Board or their proxy participates in the testing of the equipment. All present members sign the equipment certification and co-director Rauch locks equipment tapes and sample ballots in secure box.
President Rausch suspends meeting at 8:32 am and advises meeting will re-convene in the Commissioners Chambers – Suite 105 at 9:00 a.m.
4. Public Hearing on Sign Complaint – President Rausch re-convenes meeting at 9:00 a.m. and sets the record. Board Attorney Conrad informs the EB that notice of today's hearing was sent to candidate Jack Jent and to the complaint filers by certified mail and by first class mail, she confirmed that as of today Mr. Jent has not retrieved the certified mail from the post office but that the first class mailing had not been returned to her office by the post office so she believes that service to Mr. Jent has been good. President Rausch swears in anyone that intends to speak in regards to the yard signs. Complainant Jennifer Klug provides additional documentation to the EB and verbally reads her complaint to the EB that Mr. Jent's signs are missing the required disclaimers. No questions are asked by the members of the EB. Porter Town Council Member Don Craft addresses EB, he states he has seen signs that Mr. Jent has made an attempt of correcting by adding stickers but he has noticed some of the stickers are now falling off. Discussions are held by the EB in regards to the decision to be made with the absence of Mr. Jent, Co-Director Rauch also lets the board know that she did make an attempt to call Mr. Jent and left a message but no return call was received back. Laura Madigan requests to address the EB, President Rauch swears her in. Ms. Madigan addresses EB about approximate dates she believes the signs were originally put up and when she believes attempted corrections were made by Mr. Jent and about email correspondence she believes were made between Mr. Jent and a Mr. Finley who is not present. Additional discussions held by the EB. Member Bengs

suggests allowing Mr. Jent 14 days to make necessary corrections and if they are not made then matter would be referred to the County Prosecutor for their review for a possible criminal action. Secretary Bailey requests adding a civil penalty even if Mr. Jent makes necessary corrections, discussion held. President Rausch motions setting a fine of \$50 and giving 2 weeks to make corrections to signs, Member Bengs counter motions that minimum fine be no less than \$250.00, President Rausch 2nd. Vote 5-0 motion passes.

5. Other – None

6. Adjournment – Member Bengs motions to adjourn, Proxy Chidester 2nd. Vote 5-0 motion passes.