

**PORTER COUNTY ELECTION BOARD**

**155 INDIANA AVE., SUITE 105**

**VALPARAISO IN 46383**

**APRIL 27, 2023**

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call – President Rausch, Proxy Julie Biggs for Vice President Lowe, Member Bengs, Member Chidester, Secretary Bailey – Quorum established.
3. Clerk’s Report –
  - (a) Discussion on Office Relocation – Secretary Bailey advises the Election Board that the Commissioners are moving the Elections & Registrations Office to 157 Indiana Ave, the election equipment will re-locate as well to the basement at that location. Revocations are already started. The Commissioners asked Clerk Bailey if the EB knew or had any comments. Member Chidester wants to make sure that all voter info and equipment is as secure as it is now, the Elections Director’s assure the EB that they are confident that it will match or be even more secure than it is now. Clerk Bailey offers a tour once the location’s renovation is complete. Board addresses concerns over security at the new location, there is a court security officer in the building.
  - (b) Credentials – The EB signs the press credentials for election day.
4. Director’s Report – The Elections Office received an email from Flint Lake Schools asking that the polling location for the election on Tuesday be moved, they are not having an e-learning day and there will be students in the building and they are concerned about their safety. They would like the location moved around to the back of the building and provided a few pictures. EB has discussions about ADA Compliance, there is not enough time for anyone to assure that the location would be ADA Compliant. Board determines that location can be re-evaluated for the General Election. There have been almost 1200 in person votes, there have been 169 by mail as of today’s date, up from 2019 election.
5. Approval of Minutes (March 23, 2023 & March 31, 2023) – Rausch moves to approve, Bengs 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote 4-0 Biggs abstains from vote.
6. Campaign Finance Reports – EB Attorney Monica Conrad provides Findings and Conclusions from last hearing on Campaign Finance Reports. Board needs to sign off on waiver’s and fines received: Amy Perry, fine \$50 paid, waiver to appear signed. Bengs motions to accept, Chidester 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote 4-0 with 1 abstention. Brandon Kroft, fine paid, campaign closed. Rausch moves to

accept, Chidester 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote 4-0 with 1 abstention. Frankie Harris, fine paid. Rausch motions to accept, Bailey 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote 4-0 with 1 abstention. Kim Bris, fine paid. Bengs motions to approve, Rausch 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote 4-0 with 1 abstention. Aaron Stojic, fine paid. Chidester motions to approve, Bailey 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote 4-0 with 1 abstention. Valpo Dems paid \$1000. Chidester motions to approve, Bailey 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote 4-0 with 1 abstention.

(a) Delinquent Reports – Notices of Delinquent/Defective Reports sent to Jessie Harper, Valerie Wassman and Valpo Dems. Valpo Dems came in and paid the \$100 fine and provided a waiver. Bengs moves to approve Valpo Dems waiver and payment, Chidester 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote 4-0 with 1 abstention. For Jessie Harper & Valerie Wassman EB. President Rausch calls for Jessie Harper & Valerie Wassman, neither candidate are present. Chidester moves to default fine to \$100 for both candidates, Bailey 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote 5-0. EB Attorney Conrad will contact both candidates.

(b) Campaign Finance Hearings – Co-Director Rauch tells EB that currently there are no lingering reports that need to be corrected. Pre-primary reports were due 4/14, there were 5 that we filed late and 5 that are still outstanding. \$50 per day fine with a maximum of \$1,000. EB Attorney will send notice that all 10 candidates will need to appear at the June hearing.

7. Appeal on Sign Violation – President Rausch sets the record and swears in everyone that may give testimony during the appeal. Candidate Jent objects to decision made by the election board. Election Board members Rausch, Bengs, Bailey and Chidester ask Mr. Jent questions to determine if he was in compliance with statute. Mr. Jent states on the record that if there were any violations to his signs they have now been corrected. Mr. Jent states on the records that if the EB does not reconsider the fine he will walk to the bank and write a check for \$250.00 (1:09:39). After lengthy discussions held between the EB and Candidate Jent President Rausch asks the members of the EB if they have heard any testimony that would allow them to reconsider the fine as it stands currently or will motion to reconsider. Fine stands at \$250.00.
8. CEB-40 and Proof of Legal Publication – Clerk Bailey reads into the minutes that the legals were submitted and published and that the CEB-40 were signed.
9. Discussion on updating office procedure for public requests – Director's would like to know if public requests could be made in writing versus an oral request. EB Attorney Conrad suggests the office provide a form to whoever is making the oral request that would provide exactly what they are asking for. If the requestor refuses to fill in the paperwork the Elections Office will just have to do their best to note on that form themselves exactly what is being requested.
10. Upcoming Meetings – Inspector pick up Saturday 4/29 from 9-1 @ Admin Bldg. Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> is Election Day, 6pm at Expo Center. Friday May 12<sup>th</sup> is Election Certification at noon with EB Meeting to follow immediately after certification.
11. Other – Clerk Bailey congratulates Co-director Becky Rauch on completing the CEATS Certification through Ball State. Both Director and Co-Director are CEATS Certified. Co-Director

Rauch wanted to bring to the EB attention that they've ran into a new issue with report filing. If a committee has a change to their committee such as a new treasurer, they have 10 days to report that change. It is fineable. There is a committee that it has been discovered that they did not report the change and it has been 6 months. Wanted it on the record so that EB is aware and it may be subject to fine if future violations are found.

12. Public Comment – None

13. Adjournment – Chidester moves to adjourn, Rausch 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote 5-0.