

Board of Elections Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Meeting Attendees: Election Commissioners Toombs & Wahls

June Minutes approval: 1st by Dennis Mullen and 2nd by Cliff Balliet

Financial Update/Budget:

YTD Budget Report presented and reviewed budget cuts for 2020. Presented the 2021 Budget for review with notations of areas with revisions.

Old Business:

Primary Election - COVID Supplies were ordered as available and several items from the Office of Emergency Management from the state procurement were utilized for Early Voting and Primary Election Day. COVID-19 reduced the available Election Inspectors to a critical low. Most poll sites had half the required number of folks available on site. The ClearCount System was used to tabulate ballot results as well complete the 3% Audit saving countless hours of manual tabulations.

HAVA/CARES Act Reimbursement for COVID expenses (see resolution) are being totaled for reimbursement of funds that were un-anticipated expenses. Tioga County BOE was eligible for roughly sixty-four thousand dollars. This office can request nearly sixty-three thousand five hundred dollars in expenses as a result of the itemized receipts from the Primary Election expenditures.

New Business:

COVID-19 forced counties across NYS to send out Absentee Applications and then ballots with postage paid envelopes to the eligible voters. The Certified Primary Election Results were sent to NYSBOE on July 13. A Certified Statement of Canvass is on file in our office. The Democratic Presidential Primary are tabulated by Congressional District. The Republican winner for Assembly, 22nd Congressional and the Candor Town Justice will move forward to the November races.

Linn Bruce from the Personnel Office performed a requested a Desk Audit. This review was done with all full-time staff; the types of tasks that are performed in

the Board of Elections from supervision of staff and over 164 Election Day workers and providing all registered voters with honest election results. NYSBOE hired a nonprofit technology consulting company, Grant Thornton with ongoing Webex calls in conjunction with Doug Camin, our office and a NYSTEC team assigned to Tioga County to develop a secure Cybersecurity Remediation Plan. The Risk Assessment identified short term as well as long-term goals with ranking from low to very high. Eleven items identified are completed, eight are in progress and three not yet commenced.

Election Inspector Training has been significantly impacted because of COVID-19. The majority of these workers have traditionally been our retired and senior citizens. Many of the faithful workers have been forced to stay home and opt out of this service to our poll sites. In spite of our outreach to civic organizations, our county retirees and our young adults attending BCC that cry for more to participate has not been able to replenish nor add a pad of comfort to the need for the November election. As a result of COVID-19, our county is currently at a critical shortage of available workers for the November General Election as well as Early Voting. We will follow through with suggestions from this committee to other agencies and the Chamber of Commerce.

Claims for Grant Reimbursements – The goal is to submit the required documentation and grant application by end of August.

A Fraudulent Voting Situation from the June Primary Election is under review by the county's law office. A voter clearly ignored the procedure for this vote to be cast in an Affidavit Envelope and then researched by the Commissioners to determine if the votes was eligible to count.

Local Security Options for the November Election remain of concern to our inspectors. We inquired if the Sheriff Department road patrol would stop into each poll site while on road patrol, as they are able on November 3rd Election Day.

Resolutions:

H12 - AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERAL CARES ACT REIMBURSEMENT FOR BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND AMEND BUDGET