

New Castle City Board of Elections
Minutes
April 6, 2021 -- 6:30 p.m.
Meeting via Zoom Technology

Members Present: Richard Schiller
Joseph Davison
Connie Reese
Bob Blakely
Susan Hager

Also Present Daniel R. Losco, Esquire, City Attorney
Diane Delgado, Absentee Ballot Clerk
Brian Whittaker, City Clerk

Mr. Schiller called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm. Roll call followed and a quorum to conduct business was declared.

Approval of the Minutes

A Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 24, 2021 meeting as presented was made, seconded and unanimously carried.

Approval of the Agenda

A Motion to approve the Agenda of the April 6, 2021 meeting as presented was made, seconded and unanimously carried.

Notes from Chairman

- All Board members attended the Election Training on March 30, 2021.
- Poll Workers attended the Election Training on March 30, 2021.
- Additional Poll Workers who were unable to attend the Election Training can be brought on and trained by Board members.

Masks

The subject of how to deal with a situation where a voter refuses to wear a mask was not addressed at the March 30th Election Training. The Senior Center representative stated that masks are mandatory in the Center; however, it was understood that a voter cannot be turned away if he/she refuses to wear a mask.

Mr. Losco noted that the State has not provided good direction relative to this matter and is leaving it up to the municipalities. After discussion, it was agreed that if an individual refuses to wear a mask, that individual will be processed and be allowed to vote once all other voters have exited the polling place.

Hospitality

Ms. Hager will bring in food for the morning and Mr. Hager will pick up and deliver food for lunch.

Ms. Hager left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Compensation Forms

Mr. Schiller will distribute compensation forms to the Poll Workers and Board members and deliver the signed forms to Ms. Delgado.

Absentee Ballots

Mr. Schiller noted that Absentee Ballots can be delivered to the polling place up to 6:00 pm on Election Day. He further noted that the City Charter contains a note stating that Absentee Ballots can only be accepted at the polling place by the Absentee Ballot Clerk. Ms. Delgado stated she was not aware of that requirement in the Charter. Mr. Losco will review the matter and advise the Board; however he suggested that Ms. Delgado designate a member of the Board to serve as her designee to accept Absentee Ballots at the polling place. Ms. Burgmuller added that the names of individuals who have cast an Absentee Ballot should be lined-out on the final Voter Registration List with signature line to avoid duplicate voting.

Challengers

Mr. Schiller noted that to date, he is aware of only one candidate who has stated a challenger will be at the polling place. Mr. Losco noted that as long as a challenger has the required verification document, they can be admitted to the polling place. Each candidate is entitled to have one challenger in the polling place at any given time.

Voter Registration List

Ms. Reese stated the list is complete with the exception of some addresses that do not appear on the State 19720 listing. Ms. Burgmuller noted that in previous elections names have been added and removed as needed before the final list with signature line has been received.

Voting Machines

Mr. Blakely will obtain a key from the Senior Center on Friday, April 9th.

Voter Log Sheet

Mr. Blakely will pick up the Voter Log Sheet from Ms. Delgado on Friday afternoon, April 9th. Ms. Delgado will notify Mr. Blakely when all Ballots have been received.

Ballot Box

Ms. Delgado will deliver the Ballot Box and key to the polling place on Saturday morning, April 10th.

Canvas of the Votes

The Canvas of the Votes will be held on Monday, April 12th at 8:00 p.m.

Tally of the Votes

Mr. Blakely stated Mr. Thatcher of the Senior Center informed him that each candidate can have one other person with them when the votes are counted.

Configuration of the Polling Place

Mr. Schiller will determine the best set-up to ensure safe social distancing for all individuals required to be in the polling place.

Public Comment

Mr. Phil Gross

Mr. Gross confirmed that he can have multiple challengers and can pick up several forms at the City Office. It was also confirmed that only one challenger can be in the polling place at any given time.

Mr. Gross asked if one challenger per candidate can be present during the vote count. Mr. Schiller clarified that each candidate is allowed to enter the polling place to witness the tabulation of the machines and absentee ballot votes. The process for counting the Absentee Ballots was explained.

Mr. Gross asked what the role of the challenger is once the polls close. Mr. Losco explained that the challenger's primary job is to object to someone who they feel is an unqualified voter. Once the polls close the role of candidate and challenger is to watch the tabulation. If they feel there is some irregularity, they can raise the issue at that time. It was also clarified that the person present with the candidate to watch the tabulation does not have to be the designated challenger.

Mr. Gross clarified that a Board member will notify the candidates when to enter the polling place after it is announced that the polls are closed.

Mr. Schiller stated that all election protocols will be followed.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Schiller called for a Motion to adjourn.

A Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Weirich
Stenographer