

New Castle City Board of Elections
Minutes
March 10, 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, City Solicitor
Diane Delgado, Absentee Ballot Clerk

Mr. Schiller called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm. Roll call followed and a quorum to conduct business was declared.

Approval of the Agenda

A Motion to approve the Agenda of the March 10, 2021 meeting as presented was made, seconded and unanimously carried.

Approval of the Minutes

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

Appointment of Secretary

Mr. Losco recommended that volunteers be requested and then a vote could be conducted. After discussion, it was agreed to dispense with the appointment of a Secretary.

A Motion to dispense with the appointment or election of a Secretary to the Board of Elections was made, seconded, and unanimously carried.

Review of Offices/Roles

Poll workers – Mr. Davison and Ms. Hager
Voter Registration – Mr. Schiller and Mr. Blakely
Set Up – Mr. Blakely
Hospitality – Ms. Hager
Counting Ballots – Board Members

Protocol

Mr. Schiller recommended revising the Notice of Election to include a statement that masks are required to enter the polling place. Mr. Losco concurred and also recommended having the mask requirement posted at the door of the polling place. He added that the more critical issue is that denying someone who refuses to wear a mask access to the polling place is a denial of their constitutional right to vote. During discussion, ways to provide for that situation were debated, including separating one of the three voting machines to a more isolated location in the polling place. Masks will be provided if anyone forgets to bring one. Another suggestion was to include a statement on the Notice of Election that anyone who will not wear a mask must request an Absentee Ballot.

Training

After discussion, April 6th at 4:00 pm was selected as the best date for Training. Mr. Schiller will contact the Office of Elections to determine if they can provide training on that date/time and will notify Board members. Four poll workers have confirmed their availability to work on Election Day and one poll worker has tentatively confirmed. Mr. Blakely also committed to attending the training.

Absentee Ballots

Mr. Schiller stated that Absentee Ballots cannot be counted prior to the election, and if they are not counted at the polling place another public meeting must be scheduled to count them in person. The Board members are responsible for overseeing the counting. The Absentee Ballot Clerk validates Absentee Ballot Affidavits.

Voter Registration List

Messrs. Schiller and Blakely will review the Voter Registration List, which includes all registered voters in the 19720 zip code. During discussion Mr. Losco suggested that the Tax Bill list for the City of New Castle could be used to cross reference addresses and identify registered voters in the City. Ms. Hager will reach out to Ms. Caven to see how she managed the Voter Registration List.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Phil Gross submitted an email to the Board requesting information on how Absentee Ballots are processed. After discussion it was agreed that to avoid misinterpretation Mr. Gross should be directed to Chapter 78 of the City Code that details the Absentee Voting process. Ms. Hager will draft a response to Mr. Gross for Board review.

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

A Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 pm was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Weirich
Stenographer