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Monroe County Election Board Minutes - <mark>FINAL</mark>
Thurs, December 5, 2019
Monroe County Courthouse, Nat U Hill Room, 1:00 p.m.
100 W Kirkwood Ave, Bloomington, IN 47404

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I.   Call to Order

The Monroe County Election Board meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Carolyn VandeWiele, Democratic representative and Chair. Also present: Andrew Guenther, proxy for Hal Turner, Republican representative and Nicole Browne, Secretary and Monroe County Clerk.

II.   Approval of Minutes

Nicole Browne made a motion to approve the minutes from Election Board meetings on Oct 3, 2019 and Oct 11, 2019.   Andrew Guenther seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

1. Report on Election Equipment Purchase

Jeff Cockerill, County Legal, summarized the efforts of the Request for Proposal Overview Committee convened to select election equipment for 2020 elections and beyond. The seven member committee was staffed by individuals from the County Election Board, League of Women Voters, County Commissioners, County Council and County Legal. Input was received from vendors and the State of Indiana. In advance, County Council identified the funds needed for this equipment purchase.

A Request for Proposal was shared with several qualified vendors and public viewing of equipment options was provided. Two proposals were received and scoring was completed by criteria that had been defined in advance. The result: Committee scoring was higher for the vendor Hart InterCivic than for the vendor ES&S.

Next step is to negotiate with Hart InterCivic on behalf of the County Commissioners. Monroe County has shared a draft contract with Hart InterCivic, and this draft will be reviewed with Monroe County Commissioners at their Dec 11, 2019 meeting. Once all is finalized, Monroe County anticipates equipment arrival no later than Feb 2, 2020 (and hopefully before).

The Election Board wishes to express a thank you to Jeff Cockerill and all members of the Overview Committee for their efforts to be interested, thoughtful and involved so that the process was thorough, collaborative and efficient.

IV.   New Business

1. CFA-4 Delinquencies

Carolyn VandeWiele reviewed the CFA-4 filing deadline *(due Oct 18, 2019 by 12:00 noon)* and the Election Board policy for assigning late filing fees so that all are treated fairly (NOTE: *any change from the $50/day Statute-defined fines requires a unanimous vote of the Board*).

The Election Board reminded candidates that forms may be submitted on time, then later amended, if additions or edits are required. This type of submission will be accepted as being filed on time.

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1. <u>CFA-4 Delinquencies</u> *… continued*

   Three Candidates who were late filing their CFA-4 paperwork were requested to appear.

Dave Rollo -	*Appeared -*	Filed late; paperwork has now been submitted. For 1st offense, Carolyn VandeWiele made a motion to waive the fine. Andrew Guenther seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
Steve Volan -	*Did not Appear -*	Filed late; paperwork has now been submitted. This is not the candidate's 1st offense. Nicole Browne made a motion to fine this candidate $50 for late filing. Carolyn VandeWiele seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
Marty Spechler -	*Appeared -*	Filed late; paperwork has now been submitted. For 1st offense, Nicole Browne made a motion to waive the fine. Andrew Guenther seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

   All candidates are reminded that the 2019 annual CFA-4 report is due Wed, Jan 15 at 12:00 noon for all candidates with open campaigns. This is required whether or not a candidate ran or had any funds in their account (e.g. if the campaign is open, this report is due.)

2. <u>Electioneering Complaint from the 2019 Municipal Election</u>

   Clerk Nicole Browne received a letter of complaint charging illegal and unethical electioneering at the Election Day Meadowood poll for candidate Marty Spechler with a handwritten comment on cards inside the chute saying "Please vote for me Tuesday. MS." The Board referred to Statute 3-14-3-16 that states: *"A person who knowingly does any electioneering on Election Day within the polls or the chute … commits a Class A misdemeanor."* The author of the letter, Mr. Gunther, spoke at this meeting to emphasize the importance of following the statutes and prohibiting this activity in the future. He also shared this concern with two of the Election Day workers at the Meadowood poll when he voted.

   Candidate Marty Spechler then addressed the Election Board. He stated that he was visiting an individual at Meadowood the day before the election and placed a few cards with this type of hand-written notes inside the mail cubbies of a few friends who reside at Meadowood. Mr. Spechler was not present at the Meadowood poll on Election Day, or any other poll, and he did not place the cards inside the Meadowood poll.

   The Board commented that there seems to be no violation of the law by Mr. Spechler. However, the Board thanked Mr. Gunther for bringing this to the attention to the Board. It is important to remind all involved, especially Inspectors, that the chute area needs to be defined and there is to be no electioneering in the chute or poll on Election Day. The Board wants everyone to have a positive experience at the poll when voting.

3. <u>2019 Municipal Election (General Election) Comments</u>

   Karen Wheeler stated that conducting the 2019 Municipal went smoothly this election. The Election Board shared that a total of 1,569 ballots were cast in the 2019 municipal among the 16,248 registered voters (9.66% of registered voters). There were no provisional ballots; thus, there was no Board meeting to review provisional paperwork was held.

4. Polling Sites for 2020 Elections

The Election Board noted that poll sites for the 2020 elections will likely follow 2018 except for potential adjustments at Edgewood High School and the Indiana Memorial Union. All other sites must be confirmed but are hoped to be available again as poll sites in 2020.

Edgewood High School

In the December 6, 2018 Election Board meeting, the Principal of Edgewood High School requested the Election Board to consider an alternate poll site given safety concerns since school is in session on Election Day. The Election Board visited a potential alternate site at the Ellettsville Town Hall on February 13, 2019.   Nicole Browne shared that she is in favor of retaining schools as poll sites since schools are HAVA (ADA) compliant and polls need to provide this accommodation for all voters. The Election Board will consider poll location, school security, safe access in and out of the poll and the need for schools as poll sites before making a final decision.

Indiana Memorial Union (IMU)

Indiana University representatives have suggested holding the 2020 Primary in the IMU University Club (as in prior elections), but moving the IMU poll for the 2020 General to the IMU Solarium area. After this Election Board meeting finishes with agenda items, the Board will recess to tour the proposed IMU Solarium site (public is invited). The Board will share feedback in the Jan 2020 Board meeting.

5. Satellite Location for 2020 Elections

In the 2016 General election, nearly 60,000 voters voted, and about 30,000 chose to vote early in Monroe County. Early voting occurred at both Election Central and a Satellite location in the North end of the Showers Building. Early voting sites were very busy and lines of voters were managed as efficiently as possible. However, the very crowded spaces (particularly at Election Central) were problematic. On Election Day, the crowding at Election Central was also a serious concern in both 2016 and 2018 General elections.

Nicole Browne reminded that a request had been made to the Commissioners to ease the space constraints, manage the safety concerns, and provide more efficient voting at Election Central by providing extra space to the Election Team. This has not been provided by the Commissioners at this time. Nicole Browne shared that the cost of extra staffing for early voting or a satellite has already been added to the 2020 Election Budget. Additional expenses were unknown.

The Election Board anticipates a robust level of voting in 2020. With no additional voting space provided, a satellite voting location and additional Election Day space will be needed. The Board reviewed some of the advantages and disadvantages of the North Showers Building satellite in this meeting.

Carolyn VandeWiele stated that the Board will request time on the County Commissioners Meeting Agenda to discuss these facility needs and to explore funding to ensure efficient elections. In addition, ideas have been proposed by the Election Team to configure Election Day activities to provide safety and security for all given the limitations of Election Central. The Election Board anticipates an additional meeting to review proposed options at Election Central for both early voting and Election Day activities.

Nicole Browne emphasized the need to expedite these space decisions to ensure smooth planning for the upcoming election. The Election Board will share an update in the Jan 3, 2020 Election Board meeting.

6. Upcoming Dates of Interest

Elected Officials
- Wed, Jan 1, 2020 – Swearing in ceremony at 12 noon in Bloomington City Hall for all elected officials. Last day to take Oath of Office is Fri, January 31, 2020.

Candidates
- Wed, Jan 8, 2020 through Fri, Feb 7, 2020 – Period of time for major party candidates to file a declaration of candidacy for the 2020 elections. Mon, Feb 10, 2020 is the deadline for local major party candidates to withdraw candidacy.
- Wed, Jan 8, 2020 – First day for an independent or minor party candidate to file a petition of nomination for candidacy. Also, first day for a candidate to declare an intent to be a write-in candidate.
- Wed, Jan 15, 2020 – Deadline for filing 2019 annual CFA-4 report for all open campaigns (even if no activity occurred or money was spent in 2020).

Election Board
- Tues, Dec 31, 2019 - Multiple Election Board Resolutions expire and need to be renewed. The Election Board plans to update these in the Jan 2, 2020 Board Meeting.

V.   **Public Comments** – None

VI.   **Confirmation of Next County Election Board Meeting**

All Election Board meetings will be confirmed with a public announcement.

Scheduled meetings: Nat U Hill Room, 3rd Floor, Monroe County Courthouse, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Future meetings anticipated:

Thurs, Jan 2, 2020	Thurs, May 7, 2020	Thurs, Sep 3, 2020
Thurs, Feb 6, 2020	Thurs, Jun 4, 2020	Thurs, Oct 1, 2020
Thurs, Mar 5, 2020	Thurs, Jul 2, 2020	Thurs, Nov 5, 2020
Thurs, Apr 2, 2020	Thurs, Aug 6, 2020	Thurs, Dec 3, 2020

VII.   **Meeting Recess**

Carolyn VandeWiele made a motion to recess this meeting at 1:47 p.m. Nicole Browne seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Election Board recessed to relocate to the Indiana Memorial Union to view the Solarium space proposed as a possible replacement for the University Club poll in some future elections. The public was welcome. The Election Board will report on this potential poll location in the Jan 2020 meeting.

A recording of this meeting is provided by Community Access Television Service (CATS).
At http://catstv.net, click VIDEO ARCHIVE then MONROE COUNTY MEETINGS & select this Election Board meeting to view.