

# Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners

4422 Brandywine Dr., STE 1 · Peoria, IL 61614

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## The March 2023 Monthly Meeting of the Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners was held at the Election Commission Office at 4422 Brandywine Dr. on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 2:00 PM.

PRESENT: James Manning, Chairman  
Matt Bartolo, Vice Chairman  
Ryan Brady, Commissioner  
Elizabeth Gannon, Executive Director  
Jess Joseph, Assistant Executive Director  
Jennie Cordis Boswell, Assistant State's Attorney

ABSENT: Valerie Timmes, Treasurer  
Jeanne Williamson, Secretary

GUESTS: June Smith, Becky Kelley, Theresa Johanson, Zachary Robertson

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m.

A Roll Call of the Commissioners was taken by Chairman Manning finding all Commissioners except Treasurer Timmes and Secretary Williamson present.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Vice Chairman Bartolo moved to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2023, Monthly Meeting. Commissioner Brady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Brady moved to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2023, Executive Session. Vice Chairman Bartolo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

Theresa Johanson stated that she wanted to address the Board regarding two topics. She started her comment questioning why the new election judge manual notes that online school record accounts are a valid form of identification. She commented that during the 2022 November General Election, Webster (a Bradley University site for students) was allowed to show proof of address for college students. She acknowledged that a lease or rent agreement showing proof of dorm assignment or

living arrangements makes sense as an acceptable form of identification. However, Ms. Johanson disagreed with Webster being used as an acceptable form of identification due to students having the ability to update their address on the site.

She further commented that she reached out to the State Board of Elections and asked, 'if an individual provides a driver's license or ID that doesn't show their current address, can they provide (a) an amazon package label or (b) a website affiliated with the university which allows the student to update their address?' She stated that the State Board of Elections representative noted that an amazon package label would likely not be accepted, but election judges have latitude in this decision. Furthermore, if a student can show a housing assignment on an official university website, then it would likely be accepted, but that the website described by Ms. Johanson likely would not be. She reiterated that she disagreed with online school record accounts being an acceptable form of identification, especially if the student can change the address.

Ms. Johanson then commented on the use of styluses to capture electronic signatures. She asked why the change was made for this election. She stated that since Illinois is not a voter ID state, a voter's signature is how a voter is verified. She noted that although many places, like Walmart and other grocery stores, use electronic signatures, most individuals just scribble something down. She voiced that it is problematic that the DMV already uses electronic signatures and that those signatures are added to a voter's signature history for signature verification. She argued that the use of electronic signature negates the integrity of the election. She noted that she would like to know why this change is being piloted and if the Board approves of this change. Ms. Johanson commented that she would like to hear about the benefits and the drawbacks of this change. She ended her comment voicing that technology is not always the best for the security and integrity of elections.

Chairman Manning thanked Ms. Johanson for her comment.

## **Approval of Expenditures**

Executive Director Gannon explained the bills (see attached) to the Board. Commissioner Brady moved to approve the bills. Vice Chairman Bartolo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Report of the Executive Director**

### **2023 Election Cycle**

Executive Director Gannon provided a quick update on the 2023 Consolidated General Election. She started this update noting that the Election Commission is currently conducting election judge training sessions and that next week will be the last week of training. She stated that there will likely be make-up training sessions closer to the date of the election.

Executive Director Gannon also provided an update on early voting. She stated that the Election Commission has had 223 early voters thus far. She stated that during the 2021 Consolidated Election, the Election Commission had 240 early voters by this time. Executive Director Gannon commented that we appear to be on track with previous consolidated elections for early voting turnout.

Regarding vote by mail, Executive Director Gannon stated that the Election Commission has sent out 16,049 vote by mail ballots thus far for this election. She stated that 3,021 ballots have been returned already. Executive Director Gannon noted that by this time for the 2021 Consolidated General Election, the Election Commission had sent out 821 ballots and had 630 returned. She commented

that it will be interesting to see how permanent vote by mail affects voter turnout and the return rate for vote by mail ballots in Consolidated Elections.

Chairman Manning asked for Executive Director Gannon's thoughts on the switch to styluses for the pollpads. Executive Director Gannon responded noting that many jurisdictions in Illinois and throughout the United States use styluses to capture an electronic signature. She further stated that Consolidated Elections are a great time to pilot new changes due to the lower voter turnout on election day in comparison to other elections. She emphasized that the pollpad allows the voter to clear out their signature if they do not like how they wrote it the first time. Additionally, if the voter feels like they cannot capture a signature that represents how they typically sign, then the election judge can fall back on the wet signature on paper. Additionally, she highlighted that if a signature is challenged for not matching then the voter would be requested to show identification, thus confirming the identity of the voter.

Chairman Manning thanked Executive Director Gannon for providing her thoughts and asked if there were any questions for Executive Director Gannon. Seeing none, the Board moved to the next agenda item.

### **Report of the Attorney**

No Report

### **New Business**

The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the Election Commission Office.

Executive Director Gannon also stated that canvassing for the Consolidated General Election will occur on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. She noted that the Commissioners may stop by anytime that day to sign the canvassed results.

Chairman Manning commented that the sale of the building has been pushed out by a few months. He noted that the County Board requested cost estimates before they begin contemplating the purchase.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Brady moved to adjourn. Vice Chairman Bartolo seconded. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 pm.

## Monthly Expense Summary

<b>Monthly Expenses</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Calpine Energy Solutions	Energy Charges	\$341.31
Ameren	Gas & Electric	\$587.55
Ludy's Cleaning	Office Cleaning	\$316.67
Digital Copy Systems	Copier Lease	\$111.00
Illinois American Water	Water for Brandywine	\$132.02
GFL	Garbage Service	\$34.76
Stratus	Phone Service	\$297.01
Verizon 1420	Wireless Phones	\$36.01
Verizon 5507	Mifi	\$0.00
Ziad A. Musaitif	April Rent	\$3,566.06
Ziad A. Musaitif	April CAM	\$200.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,622.39</b>
<b>MISC</b>		
Journal Star	Legal Notice for Early Voting & Public Test	\$473.45
VR Systems	Five Ballot Printers	\$4,025.00
Amazon Business	Storage Containers, Pollpad Styluses, File Organizers	\$988.92
VR Systems	EVID Annual License Renewal	\$26,768.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,255.37</b>
<b>Pcard</b>		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Payroll</b>		
Staff	2/24/2023	\$11,473.03
Staff	3/10/2023	\$11,461.58
Overtime	2/24/2023	\$87.03
Part-Time	2/24/2023	\$700.57
Part-Time	3/10/2023	\$700.56
Commissioners	2/24/2023	\$615.40
Commissioners	3/10/2023	\$615.40
Medical Benefits	2/24/2023	\$205.97
Medical Benefits	3/10/2023	\$206.65
* Awaiting Invoice		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,066.19</b>
	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$63,943.95</b>