

The regular monthly meeting of the Erie County Board of Elections was called to order by Chairman Thomas Ferrell on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call:	(D) Thomas M. Ferrell, Chairman	Present
	(D) William J. Monaghan, Member	Present
	(R) Lisa M. Crescimano, Member	Present
	(R) Nancy C. McKeen, Member	Present

Guests in attendance: Jason Hinnners from Erie County Prosecutor’s Office, Rachel Ruffer from Ohio Secretary of State’s Office, MaryAnn Groot, and Jim Johnson

Ms. Crescimano motioned to approve the minutes from the following meetings: August 21<sup>st</sup> Official Canvass and Regular Meeting, August 28<sup>th</sup> Post-Election Audit Meeting, and August 30<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting. Mr. Monaghan seconded the motion. All board members voted yes; motion carried.

Alex Jones, Director, presented the bills to the board. We have both regular monthly bills and two bills from the August election that will be paid for with state money. The board members took a few minutes to review. While reviewing the bills, Mr. Ferrell thanked Mr. Monaghan for his service to the board, as this will be his last official meeting as a board member. Ms. Crescimano motioned to approve the bills, with Mr. Monaghan seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried.

For the Director’s Report, Mr. Jones stated that we are sending UOCAVA ballots today for the upcoming general election. There were some slight changes with the wording in Issue 1, but other than that the ballots remain the same. We are preparing for early voting, and will be fully staffed and ready to go on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Jones stated that Winter Conference is going to take place in January. We have a draft agenda and information on room reservations. He also stated that staff and board members are required to take their cybersecurity training by October 6<sup>th</sup>. He said to check your email for information on that. Mr. Jones also stated that the staff would like to wish Mr. Monaghan well and thank him for his years of service to the board.

For new business, the board discussed polling location changes for the November 7<sup>th</sup> General Election. Mr. Jones stated that the new aquatic center is being built near Sandusky High School, which limits parking. The school asked that we consider not using the Cultural Center at the back of the high school, which hosts Sandusky H and I. In the past, we used Zion Lutheran Church for those precincts, and the church said they would be happy to accommodate us again.

Ms. McKeen stated there is plenty of parking at Zion. Mr. Jones agreed and said it was a better location. Adrienne James, Deputy Director, stated that Sandusky H and I voters liked going to Zion, and she thinks they’d be happy to move back.

Next, the board discussed a possible polling location change for the precincts Huron Township #1 and #2. The Huron Township trustees recently sent us a letter which we have included with the board members’ agendas. The trustees are concerned about voters blocking the doors where fire equipment is stored and have asked us to consider using another location. However, there are not many centrally located places in Huron Township. Mr. Jones stated that he would rather increase the signage at the township building to indicate where voters can and can’t park. For example, we could put up cones or A-frame signs. If we were to go to another taxpayer funded facility, it would be at least 10 minutes away.

Mr. Ferrell stated it doesn’t make sense to move. Mr. Monaghan stated that the township is required to host us because they take tax-payer money. Mr. Jones confirmed that was correct and said they can’t technically decline our request.

The third possible polling location change was for the precincts Margarett Township #1 and #2. Jim Johnson, who is the mayor of Castalia Village, spoke on this matter. He stated it was brought to their attention that the plan is to have two precincts at the Margarett Township Hall. He does not have a problem with that, but there is limited parking in downtown Castalia. They changed from angle parking to parallel parking this summer and lost two or three spaces. Also, the parking lot across the street is for the coffee shop.

Mr. Johnson, who is a member of the Lions Club, stated that the Castalia Lions Club has offered up their facility. It is on the north side of Castalia, has ample space, and a ramp. He iterated that neither he nor Margarett Township Fire Chief Tom Johnson have a problem with using the township hall; they are just concerned about parking. We want to make every effort to get people out to vote, and if there is limited parking, Mr. Johnson thinks that might impact how many people vote, especially if there is bad weather. He then stated that for your consideration, the Lions Club is available. He also stated that Lions Clubs are asked to demonstrate community service.

Ms. Crescimano asked Mr. Jones for his opinion. He stated that he and Ms. James visited the Lions Club last week. The only thing we could possibly get dinged on is that there is not a van accessible parking spot. That does not mean there can't be space made for one. He also stated that one of the deacons from Grace Lutheran Church called the office and said we could come back there.

Mr. Ferrell said he would be okay with trying the Lions Club. Mr. Johnson said he has no problem going to the Lutheran Church, either. Ms. Crescimano said that 2023 is a good time to try the Lions Club, not 2024 when it will be extremely busy. She then asked Ms. James for her opinion.

Ms. James stated that her recommendation is to stay at Grace Lutheran Church because they have better parking. The Lions Club has parking on the grass, but they don't have strips on the pavement. If you are in a wheelchair and driving an accessible van, parking on the grass might not be a good idea. Ms. James stated she is grateful the Lions Club is offering their facilities and that the interior is great, but the parking is what concerns her.

Mr. Johnson agreed that the parking at the church was better, and stated he was not advocating for one or the other. Mr. Ferrell stated that everyone who would be going to the Lions Club already knows there's no parking lines. Ms. Crescimano stated that ADA is what concerns her, especially with the elderly. She said that you never know what the weather is going to be in November. Mr. Ferrell asked how many voters in wheelchairs voted at the church. Staff stated they were not sure.

Mr. Monaghan asked if one precinct could be at one location and another precinct be at a second location, or if that would require more personnel. Mr. Jones stated we would hire the same number of people, but we would need more equipment. Ms. James stated it's been our goal over the past few years to consolidate polling locations because it's better for the poll workers.

Mr. Jones asked Ms. James to walk the board through the oversight for ADA compliance. Ms. James stated that the SOS office provides a very long checklist to use every time you assess a new polling location. You're supposed to have so many disability parking spaces depending on how many overall parking spaces there are. If there aren't any disability parking spaces, you can make one with temporary signage. However, Ms. James is not sure where we would put the temporary signage at the Lions Club. People park in the grass in the back of the building, but the ramp is in the front.

Ms. McKeen stated that for parking, she would agree with Adrienne. Mr. Ferrell said, "whatever you folks think is best." Mr. Johnson stated he did not have a problem with the church. The issue last November was that a political sign was a bit too close to the building. Mr. Johnson and the pastor moved the sign so it was in compliance, and everything was fine.

**Ms. Crescimano motioned to approve the following polling locations: Zion Lutheran Church for Sandusky H and I, the Huron Township Building for Huron Township #1 and #2, and Grace Lutheran Church for Margaretta Township #1 and #2. Mr. Monaghan seconded the motion. All board members voted yes; motion carried.**

**Mr. Jones stated that Kathryn Drewyor wrote a statement withdrawing as a write-in candidate for Huron City Schools Board of Education. Mr. Monaghan motioned to accept her withdrawal as a candidate. Ms. Crescimano seconded the motion. All board members voted yes; motion carried.**

**Ms. Crescimano motioned to accept the listed candidates' petitions for the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Primary Election. Mr. Monaghan seconded the motion. All board members voted yes; motion carried. The approved candidates are as follows:**

- **Patrick J. Shenigo, County Commissioner, FTC 1/2/25, Republican**
- **Mathew R. Old, County Commissioner, FTC 1/3/25, Republican**
- **Paul A. Sigsworth, Sheriff, Democrat**
- **Thomas E. Beck, County Engineer, Republican**

**Ms. Crescimano motioned to accept the name change request from Mathew R. Old to appear on the ballot as Matt Old. Mr. Monaghan seconded the motion. All board members voted yes; motion carried.**

**There being no other matters to come before the board, Mr. Monaghan motioned to adjourn, with Ms. Crescimano seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried. Board adjourned at 9:27 a.m.**

**Alexander W. Jones, Director**

**Attest:**

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**Thomas M. Ferrell, Chairman**