

Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners

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

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The January 2023 Monthly Meeting of the Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners was held at the Election Commission Office at 4422 Brandywine Dr. on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 2:00 PM.

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

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Theresa Johanson, Linda Hernandez, Jackie Petty, June Smith, Kris Losby, Breanna R. Del Toro

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

A Roll Call of the Commissioners was taken by Chairman Manning finding all Commissioners present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Brady moved to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2022, Monthly Meeting. Treasurer Timmes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Brady moved to approve the Executive minutes from the December 13, 2022, Executive Session. Secretary Williamson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Theresa Johanson started her comment touching on the Permanent Vote by Mail Mass Mailing. She stated that while she understands that this mailing is required by state law, she objects to this idea as there is no expiration date. She continued noting that she is working very hard to clean up the voter rolls, leading her to the topic of ERIC.

Ms. Johanson expressed that ERIC is not a good way to clean up the voter rolls. She noted that the states must pay for the service and that the service provided is more akin to data gathering. As a result, citizens must put in more effort to ensure the voter rolls are clean.

Ms. Johanson noted she then wanted to comment on the Election Commission Board. She questioned how much the Board understands state statute based on the recent Electoral Board hearings. She stated that the county now has an individual running for School Board who has deceased people signing her petitions. She expressed that she feels that the Board is not addressing this issue due to statute on who an objector can be within the district. She stated that this statute appears to be up to interpretation in her opinion.

Ms. Johanson continued her comment noting that she was disappointed in the verdict of the first case. She questioned why the objection was sustained due to the error of the notary public. She additionally questioned why it was not enough for the notary public to swear and affirm to the court that this was her mistake.

Ms. Johanson also expressed that Candidate Martha Ross admitted to having deceased people on her petition sheets. She questioned whether the Board would be following up on this or if it would be allowed to stand.

She concluded her comment noting that she respects the Board and appreciates all that they do, but that she hopes to see more in-depth deliberation and research conducted by the Board prior to any decisions being made on future issues, such as the Permanent Vote by Mail Mass Mailing.

Chairman Manning thanked Ms. Johanson for her comment.

Approval of Expenditures

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

Approval of Bid for Permanent Vote by Mail Mass Mailing

Executive Director Gannon expressed that it is state statute that prior to any general election, the Election Commission must send to any registered voter (who is not already a part of the permanent vote by mail program) a letter asking if they would like to opt into the permanent vote by mail program. She noted that there are lobbyists working to get this law changed to only require the mailing prior to every even year general election. She further noted that the lobbyists are also working to create an opt-out program. She reiterated that the law requires that this mailing occur prior to every general election currently.

Executive Director Gannon continued noting that she sent out a request for bids to a few local printing vendors for the Permanent Vote by Mail Mass Mailing. She presented the Board with the only bid received. She stated that this bid was from Quicksilver and that they did the mass mailing last year. Quicksilver bid \$11,000 to complete the service.

Secretary Williamson asked how much Quicksilver charged last year. Executive Director Gannon answered stating that it was \$10,000 last year. Vice Chairman Bartolo asked if the quantity on the bid was the same as last year. Executive Director Gannon noted that the quantity was the same, but the price increased.

Vice Chairman Bartolo moved to approve the bid from Quicksilver for the Permanent Vote by Mail Mass Mailing. Commissioner Brady seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Bid for Equipment Delivery for 2023 Election Cycle

Executive Director Gannon stated that a request for a bid was sent out to three local delivery vendors for the equipment delivery for the 2023 Election Cycle. She received two bids back. She explained that the first bid was from Mordue Moving & Storage and that they bid \$13,500 to complete the service. She continued noting that the second bid was from Federal Companies and that they bid \$5,900 to complete the service.

Executive Director Gannon recommended going with Federal Companies as they have been doing the deliveries for the past few years and have done a great job with the deliveries.

Chairman Manning asked why Federal Companies bid was significantly lower. Executive Director Gannon noted that she was unsure why as both companies received the same information.

Secretary Williamson asked Executive Director Gannon to confirm that she has had no issues with Federal Companies previously. Executive Director Gannon confirmed this.

Secretary Williamson moved to approve the bid from Federal Companies for equipment delivery for the 2023 election cycle. Vice Chairman Bartolo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the Executive Director

2023 Election Cycle

Executive Director Gannon provided a quick update on the 2023 election cycle. She stated that ballot certifications are due by January 26th and that the Election Commission is still waiting to receive certifications from municipalities and libraries. She noted that once these are received, the Commission will have a better idea of how the ballot for the Consolidated General Election will look.

Executive Director Gannon continued noting the ballot must be ready by February 17th as that is the day UOCAVA ballots must be mailed out by for any overseas and military personnel that have made an application.

Executive Director Gannon also stated that the first day for early voting and to send out vote by mail ballots will be February 23rd. She ended this report noting that the dates were quickly approaching and that her office was gearing up for the upcoming election.

Report of the Attorney

No Report

New Business

The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 14th at 2pm at the Election Commission Office.

Executive Session to Discuss Pending Litigation and the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, and Performance of Specific Employees pursuant to Section 2(c)(11) of the Open Meetings Act.

Commissioner Brady moved to enter Executive Session to discuss the pending litigation and the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, and performance of specific employees pursuant to Section 2(c)(11) of the Open Meetings Act. Treasurer Timmes seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board entered Executive Session at 2:25 pm.

Commissioner Brady moved to come out of Executive Session. Treasurer Timmes seconded. Motion passed unanimously and the Executive Session was adjourned 3:20 p.m.

Adjournment

Commissioner Brady moved to adjourn. Vice Chairman Bartolo seconded. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Monthly Expense Summary

Monthly Expenses	Description	Amount	Munis Object
Calpine Energy Solutions	Energy Charges	\$385.76	631200
Ameren	Gas & Electric	\$917.76	631200
*Ludy's Cleaning	Office Cleaning	\$316.67	631321
Digital Copy Systems	Copier Lease	\$111.00	631131
*Illinois American Water	Water for Brandywine	\$120.00	631210
GFL	Garbage Service	\$34.76	631300
Stratus	Phone Service	\$288.21	633000
Verizon 1420	Wireless Phones	\$36.01	633010
Verizon 5507	Mifi	\$0.00	633010
Ziad A. Musaitif	Jan + Feb 2023 Rent	\$7,132.12	631011
Ziad A. Musaitif	Jan + Feb CAM	\$400.00	631310
	Total	\$9,742.29	
MISC			
Amazon Business	Office Supplies	\$29.79	623000
Amazon Business	Thermal Roll Paper for Pollbooks + Painter's Tape	\$1,129.15	622500
Proform	Voter Registration Cards & R26 Cards	\$6,473.70	622500
Proform	Spoiled Ballot Envelopes	\$232.38	622500
Hart	Thermal Roll Paper	\$963.89	622500
Fully Promoted	Election Commission Apparel	\$295.00	622300
ULINE	Shelving for Warehouses	\$6,654.08	622500
ULINE	Desk for Incoming Employee	\$1,340.91	620530
IACCR	IACCR Winter Conference	\$200.00	633500
Warehouse Direct	Office Supplies	\$488.62	622500
	Toilet Paper and Paper Towels for Office		
Home Depot	Bathrooms	\$337.53	623000
	Total	\$18,145.05	
Payroll			
Staff	12/16/2022	\$12,366.92	611100
Staff	12/30/2022	\$9,366.92	611100
Part-Time	12/16/2022	\$1,366.94	611200
Part-Time	12/30/2022	\$683.44	611200
Commissioners	12/16/2022	\$615.40	616100
Commissioners	12/30/2022	\$615.40	616100
Medical Benefits	12/16/2022	\$2,003.88	612100
Medical Benefits	12/30/2022	\$0.00	612100
* Awaiting Invoice			
	Total	\$27,018.90	
	Total Expenditures	\$54,906.24	