

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2017

MINUTES

PRESENT: Charles W. Scholz, Chairman
Ernest L. Gowen, Vice Chairman
William J. Cadigan, Member
Andrew K. Carruthers, Member
Betty J. Coffrin, Member
William M. McGuffage, Member
Casandra B. Watson, Member

ABSENT: John R. Keith, Member

ALSO PRESENT: Steven S. Sandvoss, Executive Director
James Tenuto, Assistant Executive Director
Kenneth R. Menzel, General Counsel
Amy L. Calvin, Administrative Assistant II

The meeting convened at 10:30 a.m. via videoconference with seven Members present. Chairman Scholz and Members Carruthers and Coffrin were present in Springfield. Vice Chairman Gowen and Members Cadigan, McGuffage and Watson were present in Chicago. Member Keith was absent and Chairman Scholz held his proxy.

The Chairman opened the meeting by leading everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

Member Coffrin moved to approve the November 21 and December 5 meeting minutes as presented. Member Carruthers seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

The General Counsel presented violation of a board order for Agenda items 2.a.2-4: 2) *SBE v. Citizens to Elect Alvin Parks, Jr.*, 19743, 16CD118; 3) *SBE v. Friends of Amara Enyia*, 25819, 16CD128; and 4) *SBE v. Citizens to Elect Diante Johnson*, 31863, 16CD141. He noted that the above committees failed to file the quarterly reports previously ordered by the Board and recommended a fine be assessed against each committee in the amount of \$5,000. Member Carruthers moved to accept the recommendation of the General Counsel. Vice Chairman Gowen seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

The General Counsel presented consideration of assessed fine policies and referred to Tom Newman's memo on page 16 of the board packet. Mr. Newman reviewed the current policies contained in the memo and also a minor change as to how contribution limit violations should be handled in the future. He recommended that a stay to a contribution limit penalty be applied only if it is the first penalty of any kind for a committee. This would mean that a committee could no longer have two stayed penalties. Member McGuffage moved to accept the policy changed proposed by Mr. Newman. Member Carruthers seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

Mr. Newman presented his memo on a proposal for reporting violation of board orders to the Attorney General's office and noted this stemmed from discussion at the December board meeting. He indicated that the majority of committees assessed penalties for violation of a board

order are not likely to file any further reports. Typically these committees end up administratively terminated once staff is no longer able to obtain proof of service for the required mailings of the orders. He recommended that a list of committees could be compiled for the Board and that the referral option be utilized on a case by case basis where special circumstances warrant. Member Cadigan moved to approve the recommendation presented by Mr. Newman. Member Carruthers seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

A listing of payment of civil penalty assessments was presented for informational purposes.

Member Carruthers moved to recess to executive session to consider complaints following closed preliminary hearing. Member Coffrin seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0. The meeting recessed at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened at 10:55 a.m. with the same attendance as noted in the initial roll call.

The Executive Director began his report with an update on the 2017 consolidated elections. He said a listing of jurisdictions that will be conducting a Consolidated Primary Election on February 28, 2017 was included on page 20 of the board packet. Two additional jurisdictions, City of Bloomington and City of Rockford are also holding a Consolidated Primary Election. The Executive Director also noted that staff will be conducting voting system pre-testing in the counties of Cook, Kankakee, Lake, Peoria and Will.

Next on the Agenda was a request to certify the ballot for the April 4 Consolidated Election. The Executive Director indicated that in the past the Board has authorized staff to issue the proclamation in lieu of a special board meeting. Brent Davis said staff will issue the certifications in advance of the January 26 deadline so the election authorities can begin preparing their ballots. Member Coffrin moved to authorize staff to certify the ballot for the April 4, 2017 Consolidated Election. Member Carruthers seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

A listing of election judge training schools was presented for informational purposes.

The Executive Director discussed the policy for purchase of petition copies and noted that prior to the 2016 elections, the Board approved a trial period for waiving the fee for electronic copies of candidate petition copies. He referred to a memo on page 34 of the board packet that summarized the past considerations contained in the proposal. The Executive Director recommended that staff continue to offer electronic copies at no cost and continue the policy of charging \$0.25 per page for printed copies. Member Carruthers moved to accept the recommendation. Member Coffrin seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

Cris Cray discussed legislation and said the 100th General Assembly began last Wednesday. She noted that a session calendar for the current year and listing of election bills to date were distributed to each board member. Ms. Cray indicated she will keep the board updated and to let her know if anyone has any questions.

Kyle Thomas gave an update on Senate Bill 172 and said progress was being made on the ERIC portion of the bill. Kevin Turner reported on the database intrusion and indicated that work was about complete. The General Counsel added that the Attorney General's office did not have any suggestions for further activity that would need to be undertaken in order to comply with the Act. He also agreed that it was time to wrap up the process.

The fiscal status reports and two year plan of staff activity were presented for informational purposes. All funds from the General Revenue Fund and the Budget Stabilization fund have been spent.

Chairman Scholz informed everyone that a committee consisting of Members Cadigan and Keith had been formed at his request to review options for staff compensation. Member Cadigan reported that he and Member Keith have met several times and would give an update at the February meeting.

Member Watson noted that a motion was in order to ratify action taken in executive session. As to Agenda item 2.a.8, *Perez v. Lying Brian Towne Trust & Friends of Karen Donnelly*, 16CD161, Member Carruthers moved to dismiss the complaint for want of prosecution. Member Coffrin seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

As to Agenda item 2.a.1, *SBE v. Friends of Juliana Stratton*, 25466, 16AM050, Vice Chairman Gowen moved to place the matter on the February meeting agenda. Member Watson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

With there being no further business before the Board, Member Carruthers moved to adjourn until Wednesday, February 22, 2017. Member Coffrin seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy L. Calvin, Administrative Assistant II



Steven S. Sandvoss, Executive Director