

St Joseph County Election Board

101 S. Main ST.

South Bend, IN 46601

Thomas Dixon, Republican Chair

Telephone 574-235-9635

Charles Leone, Democratic Chair

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Amy Rolfes, Secretary

February 15, 2023

3:30 PM

Minutes for 02/15/2023 Meeting

1. Call to order

Present are :

Pat Schafer-Citizen

Pam Claeys-Citizen

David Gill- Citizen

Samuel L. Brown- Citizen

Judy Bradford-LWV of SBA (Observer Corps)

Susan Baxmeyer-St. Joseph Co Republicans

Dave Smith-Machine Techs

Nick Abermathy-RBM

Trisha Carrico- Chief Deputy

Donna Hurley-VR Supervisor

Joe Rice-Executive Administrative Assistant to the Clerk

Jeremy McDonald -Election Board Atty.

Debbie Ladyga-block -SJC Dems

Dawn Jones-SB City Clerk

Diana Hess-SJC Dems

Mike McMannus-Citizen

Mike Kruk-Citizen

John Butler-Auditor's office-Tech

Kim Riskovich-Election Clerk

Oliver Davis-Citizen

Wayne Hubbard- Citizen

Bruce Mitchell-Citizen

Richard Herbs-citizen

Jordan Gieger-citizen

Drew Duncan

2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. January 13th minutes are approved.
4. Tom Dixon goes over Candidates who still need to turn in a CFA one form.
5. Dave Smith is asked to give an update on vote centers and workers. Mr. Smith recommends we don't add new vote centers for the primary. It is also recommended no new centers are added in the county, just use centers in areas with city addresses, or where races are being held.
6. Charles Leone motions for a resolution to determine the number of voting centers be based on using all voting centers in locations municipal elections are being held in 2023, and that this only good for 2023. -carries unanimously
7. Next issue- Final Bill from Nemeth Feeney for litigation. Tom Dixon gave the final bill to Trisha Carrico to get it processed through the Auditor's office.
8. Kim Riskovich spoke about the number of absentee workers that will be in the County City building and the Annex in Mishawka. Tom Dixon Motions to have the question of how many absentee workers are needed to be tabled. Motion carries.
9. Chuck/Tom discussed an incident last election regarding a poll worker's hat. He wants to set up expectations regarding dress codes and presentation. He would like to see how other counties dress etc, and to look at the law.
10. Tom Dixon gave notice to party chairs to inspect ballot proofs. Nick from RBM gave an update on proofing.
11. Request from Mr. Craig Hamilton regarding his sheriff's duties at Schmucker middle school. Tom Dixon described the situation. Mr. Craig wrote a letter, and requests to be paid. Tabled until next meeting.
12. Tom Dixon discussed ideas for Youth initiative and request for input to get more younger people and minorities involved
13. Next issue is the challenge of candidacy of Bruce Mitchell for City Council.
 - Mr. Mitchell has not voted in 2 primaries as a democrat and is challenged by Mr. Kruk. Mr. Kruk states that Mr. Mitchell did not fill out his paperwork correctly by not checking a box that states he has voted in 2 primaries or has received permission from the party chair to run.
 - Diana Hess states that Mr. Mitchell was not certified because he has not voted in 2 primaries, and that was the threshold for approving candidates this year.
 - Tom Dixon questions Diana Hess regarding the reasons why Mr. Mitchell was not approved.
 - Mr. Mitchell gives his background, and answers questions. Mr. Mitchell states he was not told he was not qualified to run as a candidate, and that the party leadership discussed the possibility of serving on committees and boards. He believes that he was not certified because of his race, ethnicity, and background.

- Mr. Mitchell summarized a conversation with Don Westerhausen
- Tom Dixon Asked Mr. Mitchell if Diana Hess ever stated he needed to vote in 2 primaries, or else she would not give him approval to run. Mr. Mitchell states she did not.
- Charles Leone questions Mr. Mitchell regarding the paperwork. Mr. Mitchell states he spoke to Diana Hess about which forms to fill out.
- Dawn Jones, Oliver Davis, Wayne Hubbard, and Richard Herbs are called to speak on Mr. Mitchell's behalf.
- Tom Dixon asks Mr. Mitchell if he is a Democrat, Mr. Mitchell states yes.
- Diana Hess is called back to address points Mr. Mitchell has made.
- Wayne Hubbard is called back up to speak.
- Jordan Gieger is called up to speak on Mr. Mitchell's behalf.
- Drew Duncan is called to speak on Mr. Mitchell's behalf.
- Mr. Kruk is called back to answer questions about the challenge.
- Tom Dixon asks Diana Hess if she would be interested in meeting on 2/23/2023 so she could have more time to consider certifying Mr. Mitchell.

14. Public Comments

- Cindy Strike speaks
- Eli Wax speaks
- Pam Claeys speaks
- Mike Mcmannus speaks

15. Motion to meet on 2/23/23 is carried unanimously

16. Adjourned

