

**Minutes of the New York State Board of Elections
December 15, 2011**

The meeting of the Board of Canvassers of the New York State Board of Elections was convened at the offices of the New York State Board of Elections, 40 Steuben Street, Albany, New York in the 4th Floor Conference Room and was called to order at 12:05 p.m. The meeting was chaired by Commissioner James Walsh. Commissioners present were Douglas Kellner, Evelyn Aquila and Gregory Peterson.

The Board of Canvassers considered a motion to approve the Certification of election results for the November 8, 2011 General Election for Justices of the Supreme Court.

- The motion was approved unanimously (Commissioners Walsh, Kellner, Aquila and Peterson voting in the affirmative; 4 Yes and 0 No).

The meeting of the Commissioners of the New York State Board of Elections held at the offices of the New York State Board of Elections, 40 Steuben Street, Albany, New York in the 4th Floor Conference Room was called to order at 12:15 p.m. The meeting was chaired by Commissioner James Walsh. Commissioners present were Douglas Kellner, Evelyn Aquila and Gregory Peterson. Staff members present were: Robert Brehm, Todd Valentine, Kim Galvin, Paul Collins, Elizabeth Hogan, William McCann, Anna Svizzero, Joe Burns, John Conklin, Tom Connolly and George Stanton. The guest list is attached.

The Commissioners bid farewell and thank you to George Stanton, Chief Information Officer who is retiring.

Minutes of October 27th, 2011 – Minutes were accepted (Commissioners Walsh, Kellner, Aquila and Peterson voting in the affirmative; 4 Yes and 0 No).

Unit Updates:

Executive – Robert Brehm and Todd Valentine reported on several issues including:

- The agency is meeting with the Governor’s Restacking Initiative Committee to discuss plans to move the agency to state owned office space.
- We have switched e-mail systems to a state standardized e-mail.
- Robert Brehm reported that a meeting was held with DMV staff to review their programs and how to more effectively deliver them. They are looking into electronic signatures and how that can be incorporated into the voter registration programs.

Legal – Kim Galvin and Paul Collins reported on activities related to the Legal Unit including:

- Kim reported on two cases with the Department of Justice. A report on the data base issue with New York City has been filed with DOJ. The litigation to move the primary is also ongoing.

Election Operations – Anna Svizzero reported that the Election Operations unit is working on several ongoing issues including:

- The Brennan Center issued a report on over-votes in a few counties in New York State. Anna’s unit is looking into the report with the counties.
- Helped Schoharie County Board of Elections through the election. Working to resolve ESS certification issues and hoping to have them completed by the January board meeting.
- A meeting was held with Mr. Moore from Clear Ballot Group who has developed a way to use ballot images to conduct audits independently from vendor’s software. He is working with ES&S and Dominion. There is money in the EAC audit grant that can be used to see if Mr. Moore can develop the process for NYS.

PIO/NVRA – John Conklin reported on several ongoing projects in the PIO/NVRA unit.

- The NYSVoter review for every county board except New York City is completed.
- We have a new webcasting company due to the fact that the old contract expired. The archiving of previous board meetings will now be on YouTube.

Campaign Finance – Elizabeth Hogan reported on the projects in Campaign Finance and Enforcement, including:

- The beta aspect of the software project will be in effect for the January filings. An assessment of the software will be conducted and any usability issues will be addressed.

ITU – George Stanton reported in the Unit Update

- George reported on three projects that have been completed. The move from GroupWise to Outlook e-mail. The ESF software program and the changes to NYSVoter to accommodate the new political parties.

Old Business:

New Business: The Commissioners took action on several issues including:

- VOTE on a final adoption of Part 6212 Regulations Relative to Information in Recorded in Poll Books. **(Commissioners Walsh, Kellner, Aquila and Peterson voting in the affirmative; 4 Yes and 0 No).**
- Discussed new Part 6200.10 Regulation relative to independent expenditures. Public comment will start after the January board meeting.
- VOTE to authorize the agency to submit a hiring freeze waiver to the to the to the to the DOB as required by Budget Bulletin B-1182 to Fill the Vacated Manager of Information Technology 2 Position. **(Commissioners Walsh, Kellner, Aquila and Peterson voting in the affirmative; 4 Yes and 0 No).**

- VOTE on a Resolution Commending Schoharie County for Their Efforts to Conduct the November General Election Overcoming the Extensive Flood damage to the Community. **Commissioners Walsh, Kellner, Aquila and Peterson voting in the affirmative; 4 Yes and 0 No).**
- There was a lengthy discussion on the proposed Legislative Packet for 2012.
- The next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2012.
- VOTE to adopt the staff reports on Campaign Finance Enforcement. **The motion was approved unanimously (Commissioners Walsh, Kellner, Aquila and Peterson voting in the affirmative; 4 Yes and 0 No).** Liz Hogan gave a summary on the 2010 over contribution audits.
- The Board went into Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation with the Department of Justice.

The meeting was adjourned 2:15 p.m.