MINUTES OF MEETING
WAYNE COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021 – 2:00 P.M.
RALPH VIGLIOTTI BLDG. 1900 E. JEFFERSON AVE., DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226
Meeting held via zoom video conferencing

Call to Order: Chair Monica Palmer, Wayne County Board of Canvassers called the meeting to order at 2:03 P.M.

Members present: Monica Palmer, Chair
Richard Preuss, Member
William Hartmann, Member
Mary Ellen Gurewitz, Member

Members absent: None

Also present: Gregory P. Mahar, Director, Wayne County Elections
Jennifer Redmond, Deputy Director, Wayne County Elections
Nkrumah Johnson-Wynn, Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel
Drew Van de Grift, Principal Attorney, Corporation Counsel
Libby Busdicker, Asst. Attorney, Corporation Counsel
Enjoli Conley, Admin. Assistant, Wayne County Elections
Edward McRae, Admin. Assistant, Wayne County Elections

Agenda item: **Consideration of Agenda approval.**

Board action on agenda item: Chair Palmer requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Member Preuss, duly supported by Member Hartmann, moved to amend the agenda to add "Election of Vice-Chair" under New Business. The motion was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote.

Agenda item: **Approval of Minutes of December 22, 2020**
Chair Palmer thanked Ms. Redmond for reviewing and sending the audio recording of the December 22, 2020 meeting. She indicated the minutes were correct and her statements were in the minutes.

Board action on agenda item: Chair Palmer requested a motion for approval of the minutes of December 22, 2020. Member Hartmann duly supported by Member Preuss moved to approve the

minutes of the meeting held December 22, 2020. The motion was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote.

Agenda item: **Approval of Minutes of May 5, 2021**

Board action on agenda item: Chair Palmer requested a motion for approval of the minutes of May 5, 2021. Member Hartmann duly supported by Member Preuss moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held May 5, 2021. The motion was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote.

Agenda item: **Certification of the May 4, 2021 Special Election**

Chair Palmer requested a staff report regarding the canvass of the May 4, 2021 Special Election.

Gregory P. Mahar, Director, Wayne County Elections, thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication. He acknowledged Member Gurewitz for being present during the canvass working with staff to canvass the election.

Mr. Mahar reported that this election included 108 precincts, comprised of 15 communities that included local city races in the City of Wyandotte, 8 local school district proposals, and one (1) Intermediate School District proposal for Monroe County ISD. There were 45,482 ballots cast out of 265,594 registered voters for a 17.12% voter turnout. Mr. Mahar reported on Livonia AV precinct 34B in AVCB 940, in which this precinct had 9 less votes casts than the number of voters in the poll book. Upon investigating it was determined that the Absentee counting board did not duplicate 9 ballots on election night and placed the original ballots in the local clerk's envelope instead of placing them in a sealed approved ballot container. He reported that he reached out to the Bureau of Election for guidance on how to proceed and he read a statement from Lori Bourbonais from the State Bureau of Elections. "It is the County Board of Canvassers' decision whether the ballots should be duplicated and counted. We would understand the board making either decision under the circumstances." Mr. Mahar asked if Corporation Counsel had any input.

Nkrumah Johnson-Wynn stated that the storage of the ballots were not consistent with MCL 168.805. She states that the process of placing them in the local clerk's envelope with a red paper seal is not consistent with that process.

Lori Miller, Deputy Clerk for the City of Livonia, indicated that the clerk's office will work with the Chairperson and AVCB inspectors to ensure that this does not happen again.

Discussion ensued between the Board, Corporation Counsel and department staff regarding their ability to count the ballots. Security, chain of custody, precedence and discretion were discussed. Member Gurewitz indicated there was an email from the Livonia City Clerk that the ballots were stored in the local clerk's envelope and locked in the office. She asked if those steps were satisfactory in preserving the chain of custody.

Corporation Counsel indicated that how the ballots were stored it does not comport with the provisions in MCL 168.805.

Agenda Item: **Board action on agenda item:** Chair Palmer requested a motion regarding the nine ballots from Livonia AV 940 that were not duplicated or tabulated. Member Hartmann duly supported by Member Gurewitz, moved that the nine ballots not be counted due to not being properly sealed in the appropriate container. The motion was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote.

Mr. Mahar continued his canvass report to the Board on the number of balanced and unbalanced precincts, provisional ballots, and the number of affidavit ID ballots. He indicated that the official summary and statement of votes was sent to the Board for their review.

Board action on agenda item: Chair Palmer thanked Director Mahar for his report and requested a motion for certification of the May 4, 2021 Special Election. Member Hartmann, duly supported by Member Gurewitz, moved for certification of the May 4, 2021 special election. The motion was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote.

Agenda item: **New Business – Election of Vice-Chair**

Board action on agenda item: Chair Palmer asked if there were any Member Preuss, duly supported by Member Hartmann, moved to nominate Member Gurewitz as Vice-Chair. The motion was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote.

Member Preuss asked for a follow-up regarding the Board of Canvassers training with the State of Michigan. Ms. Redmond indicated that she sent an email to the Bureau of Elections but has not received a response. She also indicated that she checked

online to see if there was an online course but did not see anything posted but stated that she will follow-up with the Bureau.

Agenda Item: **Public Comment**. None

Agenda Item: **Adjournment**.

Meeting recessed at 2:45 p.m.

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