

Board of Elections Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Meeting Attendees:**

Election Commissioners Toombs & Wahls

Legislators Balliet, Mullen, Standinger, Sullivan, and Sauerbrey

August Minutes approval: First by Legislator Standinger, seconded by Legislator Sullivan.

**Financial Update/Budget:**

2021 YTD Budget Report was attached, no questions were brought up.

Resolutions for EVE and TIER Grants were presented.

First claim was submitted for Cybersecurity Remediation Grant in August, awaiting reimbursement.

**Old Business:**

New Cybersecurity Regulations from NYSBOE – first report due Oct. 1, regulations and checklist attached. Commissioners to meet with IT Director to review and complete the report.

Propositions for GE21 Ballot were reviewed:

- 5 Statewide Proposals; Two (No-excuse Absentee Voting, Same-Day Voter Registration) would directly and significantly impact BOE operations
- Local Props for Newark Valley, Richford

New Legislation was reviewed:

- Absentee Applications and Deadlines
- Number of Voters per Election District
- Online OR In-Person Election Inspector Training
- Automatic Voter Registration

Pending Legislation was reviewed:

- Early Voting Expansion
- Reform of Canvass Process for Absentee, Military, Special, and Affidavit Ballots

- Electronic Absentee Ballot Application Transmittal System
- Online Absentee Ballot Tracking System

### **New Business:**

Annual Election Inspector Training is in progress. We continue to struggle to recruit enough Election Inspectors. Since this is a low-turnout election year, we can get by with a few less. We fill classes to capacity (20 people) with sign-ups, but 4-6 usually cancel or do not show up. Additional classes necessary to allow for rescheduling and additional people.

NTS software migration from TEAM to Suite is occurring this year. The most recent changeover, the Street File data, could have gone smoother. Address data had to be reviewed and corrections made prior to the switch. The new software will supposedly make redistricting easier and quicker. NTS is trying to move all programs over to Suite software by 2022.

Local redistricting is coming soon, but we do not know when, just that it will be after Congressional and State Legislative lines are finalized.

Commissioners attended NYS Election Commissioners' Association Summer Conference Aug 30-Sept 2. Commissioner Toombs was re-elected to the Legislative Committee and Commissioner Wahls was elected to the Executive Committee.

NYSBOE certified the 2021 General Election Ballot on September 2.

Commissioners were made aware via email of Gary Hammond's request to turn over operation of the BOE box truck to BOE staff, but otherwise the issue has not been discussed with us. BOE Commissioners and staff are not exactly comfortable with this, but further discussion is necessary.

Legislator Sullivan also voiced that the box truck is aging and the Public Works Capital Plan needs to include funding to replace the truck in a few years. We need to have a Capital Plan in the budget for any expensive equipment that will need to be replaced at the end of its lifetime, so we do not get stuck with a large surprise expense.

Planning Ahead: In light of the legislation that has passed, and that will likely pass in the near future, our department may be forced to expand in order to accommodate the additional work from new mandates. Commissioners requested two additional permanent, part-time staff. The following issue then is space – we do not currently have room for more permanent workstations. Legislator Mullen noted that the Board of Elections’ compliance with state election law during the recent high profile Congressional race kept the county out of the news. He felt the BOE should get what is needed to continue to accomplish the job; be it staffing or space. Legislator Sullivan said to wait and see if the pending legislation will pass before adding more staff, but to address the more immediate concern of space. It is not likely we will find more space in the immediate future, but Election Commissioners should meet with Commissioner Hammond of Public Works to review layout of the existing BOE area and see if anything can be modified to address the problem.

**Personnel:**

None

**Resolutions:**

I07 - AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR NYS EARLY VOTING EXPANSION GRANT AND BUDGET AMENDMENT

I08 – AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR NYS TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND ELECTION RESOURCE GRANT AND BUDGET AMENDMENT