

ELECTION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 29, 2024

10:00 A.M.

Those in attendance: James Holland (Chairman), Mark Kevitt (Vice-Chairman), Shari J. Lentz (Secretary), Peter King (Attorney), Debra Settle (Voter Registration Administrator), Taylor Seegraves (Elections Administrator), Luann Welmer (Republican Party Chair), Mark Webber (Reporter with The Republic), Sean Burton, & Tom Dell.

Chairman, James Holland called the meeting to order.

James Holland acknowledged that there were two candidates remaining that had not filed their reports and had service by sheriff returned. Shari J. Lentz advised the board that both Sean Burton & Derick Olson have filed their reports. James Holland acknowledged that Sean Burton has appeared in person to address the board. Sean Burton apologized to the board and stated that both he and his treasurer had little experience in regards to campaign finance. Mr. Burton also stated that he is grateful to have everything straighten out. James Holland and Shari J. Lentz added that they appreciated Mr. Burton's apology. James Holland asked the board if they had any action that they feel should be taken. Mark Kevitt made a motion to accept the reports for Sean Burton & Derick Olson with no further action. Shari J. Lentz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

James Holland acknowledged that Tom Dell would like to address the board. Tom Dell stated that since he was before the board last it was pointed out that he had made an error concerning his fee amount. Mr. Dell appealed to the board to accept his fee for his penalty in the amount of \$56.25. Mr. Dell stated that he has had people asking him to resign from his City Council position, which he states that he doesn't plan to do, and wanted the board to accept his fee to uphold his integrity. Tom Dell states that he wanted to pay his fee to show the public that he is honest and plays by the rules so he is appealing to the board. Mark Kevitt reiterated that they addressed this issue with Mr. Dell at their previous meeting and as he saw they upheld the same policy with Mr. Burton. Mr. Kevitt stated that he appreciated the gesture but as per the policy previously stated at the meeting

on March 9, 2023, the board will not accept fines for those that turned in their report prior to the hearing. Mr. Kevitt suggested that if Tom Dell wants to do something with those funds that he could give them as a donation to a charity. Mark Kevitt concluded stating that he was sorry that Mr. Dell has received negative feedback. Tom Dell stated that he understands the board's policy but it doesn't stop people from coming to the store. James Holland stated to Tom Dell that he is not listening to the board and that the purpose of the board's policy is campaign finance report compliance not fines. James Holland addressed Clerk, Shari J. Lentz as to how voluntary payments work within the clerk's office. Shari J. Lentz stated that she wasn't sure and that she would have to contact the County Auditor. James Holland asked the board how they would feel about accepting a voluntary payment from Tom Dell. Shari J. Lentz stated that she doesn't like the idea because acceptance of that payment would go against policy already set by the board. Mrs. Lentz added that if the board accepted the payment they would need to contact all delinquent filers and ask if they would like to make voluntary payments. Mark Kevitt agreed with Shari J. Lentz in regards to not accepting the voluntary payment. Tom Dell asked the board why there is a fine out there if the board isn't going to enforce it. James Holland stated that the process is there and that if candidates weren't compliant fines would be enforced. Mr. Holland also stated that unfortunately the board can't fix the personal issues that Tom Dell is having to deal with. Tom Dell stated that he will now have to decide what to do and discuss it with his family.

James Holland recognized challenger Luann Welmer and acknowledged that none of the challenged candidates have appeared for the hearing. The board recognized Luann Welmer to present the evidence against each challenged candidate. Luann Welmer began by stating that the Republican Party is always welcome to individuals wanting to join but these six individuals did not meet the Republican Party Rules (1-24) and pursuant to IC 3-8-1-32 their party voting history does not qualify each as a Qualified Primary Republican.

Luann Welmer stated that the first challenged candidate is Cheryl Noblitt that filed for Precinct Committeeman in Precinct 2400. Mrs. Welmer pointed out that Cheryl Noblitt's voting history record showed only one primary election that she voted Republican. Luann Welmer stated that per the Republican State Party Rule 1-24 Cheryl Noblitt doesn't meet the requirement to be a Qualified Primary Republican. Mark Kevitt made a motion to grant the candidate challenge. Shari J. Lentz seconded the motion. With no further questions about the motion the board moves to a vote. Mark Kevitt votes Yes, James Holland votes Yes, and Shari Lentz votes Yes. With all votes being in favor of the motion, the motion is granted.

Luann Welmer stated that the second challenged candidate is Joshua Raper that filed for Precinct Committeeman in Precinct 3400. Mrs. Welmer pointed out that Joshua Raper's voting history record showed no primary election history. Luann Welmer stated that per the Republican State Party Rule 1-24 Joshua Raper doesn't meet the requirement to be a Qualified Primary Republican. Mark Kevitt made a motion to grant the candidate challenge. Shari J. Lentz seconded the motion. With no further questions about the motion, the board moves to a vote. Mark Kevitt votes Yes, James Holland votes Yes, and Shari Lentz votes Yes. With all votes being in favor of the motion, the motion is granted.

Luann Welmer stated that the third challenged candidate is Robert K. Schulz that filed for Precinct Committeeman in Precinct 4350. Mrs. Welmer pointed out that Robert K. Schulz's voting history record showed only one primary election that he voted Republican. Luann Welmer stated that per the Republican State Party Rule 1-24 Robert K. Schulz doesn't meet the requirement to be a Qualified Primary Republican. Mark Kevitt made a motion to grant the candidate challenge. Shari J. Lentz seconded the motion. With no further questions about the motion, the board moves to a vote. Mark Kevitt votes Yes, James Holland votes Yes, and Shari Lentz votes Yes. With all votes being in favor of the motion, the motion is granted.

Luann Welmer stated that the fourth challenged candidate is Erica Stark Perry that filed for Precinct Committeeman in Precinct 5800. Mrs. Welmer pointed out that Erica Stark Perry's voting history record showed only one primary election that she voted Republican. Luann Welmer stated that per the Republican State Party Rule 1-24 Erica Stark Perry doesn't meet the requirement to be a Qualified Primary Republican. Mark Kevitt made a motion to grant the candidate challenge. Shari J. Lentz seconded the motion. With no further questions about the motion, the board moves to a vote. Mark Kevitt votes Yes, James Holland votes Yes, and Shari Lentz votes Yes. With all votes being in favor of the motion, the motion is granted.

Luann Welmer stated that the fifth challenged candidate is Sara Glick that filed for Precinct Committeeman in Precinct 2700. Mrs. Welmer pointed out that Sara Glick's voting history record showed no primary election history. Luann Welmer stated that per the Republican State Party Rule 1-24 Sara Glick doesn't meet the requirement to be a Qualified Primary Republican. Mark Kevitt made a motion to grant the candidate challenge. Shari J. Lentz seconded the motion. With no further questions about the motion, the board moves to a vote. Mark Kevitt votes Yes, James Holland votes Yes, and Shari Lentz votes Yes. With all votes being in favor of the motion, the motion is granted.

Luann Welmer stated that the sixth challenged candidate is Daniel Ford that filed for Precinct Committeeman in Precinct 0500. Mrs. Welmer pointed out that Daniel Ford's voting history record showed no primary election history. Luann Welmer stated that per the Republican State Party Rule 1-24 Daniel Ford doesn't meet the requirement to be a Qualified Primary Republican. Mark Kevitt made a motion to grant the candidate challenge. Shari J. Lentz seconded the motion. With no further questions about the motion, the board moves to a vote. Mark Kevitt votes Yes, James Holland votes Yes, and Shari Lentz votes Yes. With all votes being in favor of the motion, the motion is granted.

The board reviewed the legal notice from the February 28, 2024 edition of The Republic newspaper that listed the Notice of the 2024 Primary Election Public Test to be held on March 27th, 2024 at 9 a.m.

Shari J. Lentz presented the board with the proposed 2024 Primary Election Vote Center Map. Shari J. Lentz informed the board that on February 22, 2024 the city confirmed that there is power to the room in NexusPark and that she asked them about the cost to use that room but has not received a response. Shari J. Lentz suggested that the board hold off on a vote until she receives the needed information. James Holland states that all of the election board members have reviewed the proposed room at NexusPark and that it is acceptable for Election Day. Mark Kevitt added that there are 4 possible entrances to get to the room at NexusPark and that it isn't feasible to place a greeter at each entrance but rather at the closest entrance. The board is in agreement to hold off on a vote concerning the vote center locations until Shari J. Lentz receives a response from the city but pointed out that the deadline to submit the Vote Center Amendment to the state is March 7, 2024. With current circumstances in mind, the board will do everything in their power to comply with the 48-hour notice to the media about the next meeting.

Shari J. Lentz made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting on February 15th, 2024. Mark Kevitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.