

The Bloomington Board of Election Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4th, 2020. Commissioner Kim Kiser, Commissioner Denise Williams, Commissioner Robert Felton, Executive Tim Mitchell, Assistant Executive Director Lindsey Smith, and Attorney Steve Mahrt were present.

Commissioner Williams called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and called for a motion to approve the July 7th, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Felton motioned to approve the July 7th, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Kiser seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Williams asked for approval of the bills and checks shown below which are drawn on the PNC Bank. Commissioner Kiser moved that the financial report and checks be approved as shown. Commissioner Felton seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Ancel Glink PC	\$1,472.50
Culligan Water Conditioning	\$28.95
StorageCraft	\$10.18
Staples	\$1,347.27
Illinois Office Supply	\$13,500.00
Amazon.com	479.91
Frontier	\$1,192.66
Martin Yale	\$4,397.00
RKDixon	\$1,196.07
PNC Bank	\$1,019.85

Commissioner Williams called for Public Comment, no one present for comments.

Social Media policy was reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Kiser to approve the Social Media Policy. Commissioner Felton seconded the motion and the motion passed.

VBM equipment has started to arrive. We have received the letter opener and folder. Both have allowed for increased efficiency in the office. The letter sealer is due to come before August 7th, 2020. We have received our DS450. ES&S will be sending someone to assemble it the week of August 17th. ES&S will be providing in person training to the staff on the DS450 on August 27th, 2020.

No progress has been made on looking for a new bank due to issues with PNC. We did have an issue with 2 checks coming back to 2 vendors. The vendors reported that PNC indicated a character was missing. All the other bills on checks with the same information were processed without a problem.

Mr. Mitchell meet with the city about using Grossinger Motors Arena for an early voting location. The city is agreeable to letting BEC and county use the facility for Early Voting. Mr. Mitchell & county staff meet with the city to review logistics and plans and all agreed it was a good option. There will need to be a MOU signed off on by the county, city, and BEC. The city is working to draft this MOU.

Mr. Mitchell indicated that we secured the Doubletree hotel as a polling location for the November General Election.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Commissioners the status of our VBM applications. BEC sent out 50358 VBM applications through our vendor IOS. They were mailed on July 26th 2020 and we have meet the requirements of P.A 101-642. BEC has also received VBM apps from voters that were sent to them by third parties which has cause a fair amount of confusion for voters. We have updated our website and posted several FB messages to help clear up the confusion.

It is unclear what IDPH and CDC will be recommending at November for COVID-19, but Mr. Mitchell recommended planning for current restrictions including masks for election judges, sneeze guards at the polls and social distancing markers. The state will be supplying us with some masks for voters to use at the polls.

Our new poll books have arrived and we are swapping them out with the old ones. A solution to what to do with the old poll books will need to be determined in the future. Mr. Mitchell will look at options including donating them to local non-profits that could use them.

Mr. Mitchell indicated that some jurisdictions are sending "I Voted by Mail" stickers out with their VBM ballots. The commissioners decided against doing this.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Commissioners that we have gotten several VBM applications electronically from a third party and not directly from the voter. Mr. Mitchell will review and discuss with SBE.

Mr. Mitchell discussed the use of drop boxes. County may have one in the building. The consensus from the Commissioners was not to have a drop box located outside due to security concerns and cost.

IWU has decided to move the polling location from the IWU Hanson Center to the Shirk Center. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Smith toured the new location with IWU staff and it is suitable for a polling place. Notices will be sent to impacted voters.

With the continued COVID-19 restrictions in place and the Government Center has reopened, although city offices remain closed. Staff have returned to working in the office and additional temporary help will be added in the near future to handle the increased volume of work as the election draws near.

There will be an AOECI conference in September and possibly a conference call in August. Mr. Mitchell will send the contact information to the Commissioners.

At 1:59pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Kiser to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Felton and the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday September 8th, 2020 at 1:00 PM.



Robert Felton, Secretary