

Commissioners

MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, *Chair*
WILLIAM J. KRESSE, *Commissioner/Secretary*
JUNE A. BROWN, *Commissioner*

CHARLES HOLIDAY, JR., *Executive Director*



Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago

Minutes of the

Regular Board Meeting

June 14, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

69 West Washington Street, 8th Floor Conference Room, Chicago, Illinois 60602

via WebEx video conference

Board Members:

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair
William J. Kresse, Commissioner/Secretary
June A. Brown, Commissioner

Staff:

Charles Holiday, Executive Director
Sandra Aspera, Assistant Executive Director
Adam Lasker, General Counsel
Max Bever, Director of Public Information [absent]
Opal Walls, Procurement Officer/Purchasing Agent
Karen Chin, Director - Human Resources
Lance Gough, Consultant
Al Chase
Trish Sheehy

Guests:

C. Betty Magness, Operation P.U.S.H.
Josh Miller, Arrow Messenger
Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters Chicago
Phyllis Applebaum, Arrow Messenger

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.
- II. Roll Call: All members of the Board were present via WebEx video conference.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 24, 2022
Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 24, 2022. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
- V. Executive Director's Report:

Executive Director Charles Holiday reported:

Last weekend we started the pre-trial detainee voting at Cook County Jail. On Saturday 453 voted and on Sunday 489, giving us a weekend total of 942. We're scheduled to return this weekend to complete the pre-trial detainee voting.

With the opening of Early Voting in the Wards, we had a total of 2,337 voters. For this type of Primary that number is about normal.

Mr. Holiday spoke at the Coalition of African-American Leaders breakfast on election procedures, election dates and deadlines.

Additional drop box locations for the election will be at Wintrust Arena, the United Center and at Gallagher Way (which is at Wrigley Field).

Yesterday we began to mail and email drafts of the new Ward maps to the Alderpersons for their recommendations so that they may assist us with the redrawing of precinct boundaries. We've already started to receive responses for scheduling meetings.

Mr. Holiday has also been attending meetings with the staff regarding the process and procedures of the election and to keep abreast of how things are going.

A. Assistant Executive Director's Report

Assistant Executive Director Sandra Aspera reported:

On June 11th, Ms. Aspera and the Board's IT Manager went to the Johnson & Quin facilities and toured their operations. Johnson and Quin provides ballot printing services for the Board.

The two mock elections, for ES&S and Dominion, were successful.

Ms. Aspera was at the Board's warehouse for the start of the Logic and Accuracy Test of the election day equipment.

The plans for Election Central are moving forward.

The warehouse has begun shipping the blue carriers (ESC) to the polling places for election day.

The total of Vote-by-Mail applications is 108,933 and the total Vote-by-Mail ballots received is 12,349, of which we have processed approximately 9,700 ballots. By processing, it is only the opening and the initialing of the ballot that takes place in the first phase.

The Military and Overseas total applications received is 379 and 89 ballot envelopes have been received.

Online voter registration ended Sunday, June 12th. The department will complete its registration files tomorrow.

The total of Grace Period registration and voting is 533 as of yesterday.

A total of 8,306 Election Judges are assigned, of which 596 are high school students.

A total of 1,084 Election Coordinators have been assigned. There are 971 Election Coordinators whose status is pending, awaiting to complete training.

Colloquy took place between the Chair, Ms. Aspera, Mr. Holiday and General Counsel Adam Lasker regarding the need for additional Election Judges.

Commissioner Kresse asked Ms. Aspera about the printing of the ballots and the nationwide paper shortages. Ms. Aspera said that Johnson & Quin showed her that they have enough paper secured. The Chair asked about the paper supply for the November election. Ms. Aspera said that Johnson & Quin has secured enough paper rolls. The Chair said that we need to ask about paper needs for the February and April elections. The Chair thinks that we should compute how much we would need for all three upcoming elections and ensure that we have the paper. Procurement Officer Opal Walls reported that she has been in touch with

the Board's paper vendor and he is well aware of the upcoming elections. They are extrapolating those numbers now and are trying to get ahead of the supply chain backlog.

Commissioner Kresse about the facility discussed at the last meeting that could be a potential supersite. Mr. Holiday stated that the landlord was not interested in a short-term lease. Discussion ensued about finding a place for an additional supersite location.

Colloquy took place between Commissioner Kresse and Mr. Holiday regarding the redrawing of precincts.

Commissioner Brown and Ms. Aspera discussed the resignations of Judges of Election. Ms. Aspera stated there were a handful of resignations, and that she will get the numbers and keep everyone abreast.

B. Public Information Director's Report

Director of Public Information Max Bever reported:

With two weeks out from the election, we're looking to stay in the media every day until then. We are already doing that and Mr. Bever thanked the Chair for leading our press conference yesterday.

We were in a majority of TV and newspapers sharing the Early Voting opening in all 50 wards as well as upcoming deadlines and answering reporter questions. We will be scheduling another press conference for Monday, June 20th to give an update on voter turnout and additional deadlines; we will also have morning availability on Election Day.

I We have our legal notices, all of our advertising (both digital and in newspapers) hitting this week for Early Voting. Those are spread out over the next two weeks. Those are also going to be in Spanish, Hindi, Chinese and Polish publications. Our Community Service team is hard at work in their media communities, too. We are going to blanket Early Voting, Vote-by-Mail, and Election Day information for the next two weeks.

We will do some additional press releases in the meantime, along with another call for Election Judges.

The Facebook ad has been performing well. We will continue to push to make sure that we've got a good safety net ahead of Election Day.

VI. Old Business

A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: Mr. Holiday said that these are moving along and no changes.

B. Electronic Poll Books: No changes to report; we're ok with electronic poll books.

C. Voting Equipment: No changes to report.

D. Legislation: General Counsel Adam Lasker stated that the General Assembly is not scheduled to go back into session until November 15th, so nothing until after our November General Election.

VII. New Business

A. Approval of an emergency bid award to Midway Movers for cartage of election precinct tables and chairs.

Executive Director Holiday explained that we had to have an emergency bid because the cartage company that had won the original bid could not fulfill the obligations, so we had to go out for another bid. Discussion ensued between the Chair Mr. Holiday and General Counsel Adam Lasker, Commissioner Brown and Commissioner Kresse. General Counsel

Lasker noted that the vendor has provided a \$20,000 performance bond which they will forfeit to cover any costs this may cost the Board.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve an emergency bid award to Midway Moving and Storage for cartage of election precinct tables and chairs with a term beginning on June 14, 2022 and ending upon completion of the cartage duties for the June 28, 2022 General Primary Election with compensation not to exceed \$161,510 and authorizing the Executive Director to take all necessary actions in furtherance of this bid award. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

B. Approval of professional services agreements with:

1. ANE Data Solutions LLC for website services.

Mr. Holiday said that ANE has provided our website services under a year-to-year contract. They have been performing well, so we are requesting the contract be extended to next June.

The Chair asked Mr. Holiday if it was correct that there is a slight increase from the previous contract term from \$4,000 per month to \$5,000 per month. Mr. Holiday stated that that is correct and that this increase facilitates the extra items involved with Vote-by-Mail and Election Day processing.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve a Professional Services Agreement with ANE Data Solutions LLC for website services at a rate of \$5,000 per month not to exceed \$60,000 over the term of this agreement which shall begin July 1, 2022 and expire on June 30, 2023. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

2. Dean Ftikas for facilities management and consulting.

The Chair said she knows that Dean Ftikas has been a consultant to the Board for many years for facilities and that he has done a great job. He's invaluable.

The contract for Mr. Ftikas will be basically the same terms as in previous years.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Dean Ftikas for facilities consulting and management at the rate of \$70 per hour, not to exceed \$95,000 over the term of the agreement which shall begin on July 1, 2022 and expire on June 30, 2023. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

The Chair expressed her gratitude and thanks to Mr. Ftikas for everything he does.

3. Lasker Law LLC for legal and general counsel services.

The Chair called the next item, the proposed renewal of a contract with Adam Lasker, the Board's General Counsel, for legal and General Counsel services to the Board.

The Chair noted that Mr. Lasker has been performing a myriad of duties pertaining to all sorts of Board issues and the Board is very appreciative of his services and his work.

The proposed contract increases the rate for Mr. Lasker to \$265 per hour, and the contract is for a one-year term.

Commissioner Kresse commented that he had high expectations for Mr. Lasker and that he has exceeded those.

Commissioner Brown said that Mr. Lasker is invaluable to the Board and has done a great job. Commissioner Brown happily moves that this contract be accepted. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

The Chair thanked Mr. Lasker for his work. Mr. Lasker thanked the Board.

VIII. Legal Report

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported:

With the Board having renewed the contract with Lasker Law LLC, Mr. Lasker stated he really appreciates it and that it's been his privilege to work for the Board.

As for the Legal Report, Mr. Lasker wanted to point out we now have ballot notices that are ordered by the Appellate Court from two different cases involving two different candidates for the office of sheriff. Those ballot notices are posted in every Early Voting site right now. They are currently being printed along with a memorandum from the Judges Department that goes to the Election Judge with instruction for what they should do on election day. These notices will be posted at the check-in tables and inside every voting booth. The notice notifies the public that these candidates for sheriff, although their names appear on the ballot, have been disqualified by the courts and that votes for them will not count.

For both of those cases, Petitions for Leave to Appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court have been denied.

Discussion ensued regarding the case involving sheriff candidate Gercone and possible future procedural impact on our Electoral Board proceedings. I

Commissioner Kresse asked Mr. Lasker if he had heard anything further on the federal lawsuit regarding the number of days after Election Day that the Board can receive Vote-by-Mail ballots that can be counted. Mr. Lasker said that he had not received any additional news. Mr. Lasker noted that the case is a challenge to the rule that allows election authorities throughout Illinois to process and count Vote-by-Mail ballots received in the 14 days after the election, so long as they are either postmarked or certified on or before the date of the election.

IX. Financial Report

- A. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the City of Chicago – 2022 Appropriation – 22-04 dated June 14, 2022 in the amount of \$ 1,529,599.99

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the City of Chicago – 2022 Appropriation – 22-04 dated June 14, 2022 in the amount of \$1,529,599.99. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion was passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

- B. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the County of Cook – 2022 Appropriation – 22-04 dated June 14, 2022 in the amount of \$2,006,337.58

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the County of Cook – 2022 Appropriation – 22-04 dated June 14, 2022 in the amount of \$2,006,337.58.

Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

X. Public Comment:

The Chair took the liberty to be the first to comment on a wonderful award recently given to Betty Magness. Ms. Magness and Ms. Gabelnick noted that the award to Ms. Magness was given by the National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North Shore. The Chair congratulated Ms. Magness. The Chair called upon Mr. Lance Gough who had been at the award ceremony. Mr. Gough said it was an honor to attend with Ms. Magness. Mr. Gough congratulated Ms. Magness As did Commissioner Kresse.

There were no requests for public comment.

XI. Executive Session: None

XII. Adjournment:

The Chair asked if there was a motion to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting, which happens to be on Election Day, June 28, 2022; the time would change because normally we have an earlier meeting. Mr. Lasker directed everyone to watch for the meeting notice. It will have the time.

The Chair thanked everyone and encouraged them to keep up the good work. She added that for the Board employees she knows for the next two weeks it's going to be difficult, but the Board's counting on them and knows that they can do it; thank you all.

Commissioner Kresse moved to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The Board voted 3:0 to pass the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Kresse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Commissioner William J. Kresse
Secretary