Hamilton County Election Board Minutes
February 21, 2019

Present:
Ray Adler, Chairman and Republican Member
Greg Purvis, Democrat Member
Kathy Kreag Williams, Clerk and Secretary
Beth Sheller, Elections Administrator
Jeff Ellison
Kevin Ferguson
John B. Partlow
Abby Russell
Melanie Russell
Brian Landress
Laura Campbell, Hamilton County Republican Chair
Mike Corbett

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Adler.

Chairman Adler asked for the approval of the Minutes from the February 1, 2019. Mr. Purvis made a motion to approve. Clerk Williams seconded the and the motion was adopted unanimously.

Chairman Adler began the business of the candidate challenges and called on Mr. Kevin Ferguson, seeking the candidacy for the Arcadia Town Council District 2. Chairman Adler asked if he was prepared to proceed and he stated yes. Mr Ferguson stated he had received notice and had reviewed the challenge. Chairman swore in the Mr. Ferguson and Laura Campbell, the challenger and Republican County Chairman.

Chairman Adler stated that the challenge contesting Mr. Ferguson’s candidacy states that he has not voted in a Primary Election. Mr. Ferguson stated that he had not voted since the 2008 General Election, and that he didn’t fully understand the form he was completing and had voted Republican in the 2008 General Election. Mr. Purvis stated that Indiana law has two means for party identity. One is the party voted for in the last Primary Election. The other is a written certification from the party chairman. After other discussion, Chairman Adler stated that Mr. Ferguson has not voted in a Primary, and he does not have Chairwoman Campbell’s approval for candidacy. Chairwoman Campbell stated she is not trying to block candidates, but she would need to see primary vote history to certify. Clerk Williams went over the questions on the Candidate filing form for Mr. Ferguson where he stated he had voted Republican in the most recent primary. Mr. Purvis made a motion that Kevin Ferguson be denied candidacy, pursuant to IC 3-8-2-7(a)(4) he is not qualified. Chairman Adler seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

Brian Landress, seeking candidacy for Noblesville Common Council At-Large, was sworn in by Chairman Adler. Chairman Adler stated his case was much the same in that he had no primary vote history in Indiana. Mr. Landress requested that he be given an opportunity to be a candidate, as he stated he has been a lifetime Republican. Mr. Purvis stated he had no primary vote in 5 years. Mr. Landress admits fault for not voting in primaries, but still requested Chairwoman Campbell give him a letter of certification. Chairwoman Campbell stated Mr. Landress has been in Hamilton County for 2 major primaries and has not voted; therefore, she cannot give him a letter of certification. Chairman Adler calls for a motion. Mr. Purvis made a motion that Brian Landress has not met the qualifications of being a candidate, per IC 3-8-2-7a-4. Clerk Williams seconded, and motion passed unanimously.
John Partlow, seeking candidacy for Noblesville Common Council, District 6, was sworn in by Chairman Adler. Mr. Adler stated that Mr. Partlow had voted in a primary in 2015, but had not marked his party preference. Mr. Purvis asked if there was a Democratic Primary in 2015. There was a check, and there was a Democratic Primary in 2015. Mr. Partlow stated that he is a Republican and voted Republican in the 2015 Primary. Chairwoman Campbell stated he did not vote in 2016 or 2016 Primary. Mr. Purvis read from the statute in regards to whether it was required to be on the poll book.

After much discussion, Clerk Williams made a motion to deny candidacy for John Partlow, pursuant to IC 3-8-2-7a-4, since the candidate did not have a Republican vote history nor a certification from the Republican County Chair that the candidate be removed from the ballot as he is not qualified. Chairman Adler seconded the motion. Mr. Purvis voted no on the motion. Motion was carried 2-1.

Re-Certification of the Voting System and Electronic Poll Pads was tabled by Clerk Williams, Mr. Purvis seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Under old business, Mr. Purvis asked if the county has a campaign finance enforcement account established and if there are any funds currently in the account. Clerk Williams confirmed with the Auditor’s office that we do have an account #1111 that has $800.00 and the last deposit was in 2006. The funds can only be used for campaign finance enforcement.

Under new business Clerk Williams shared the Draft version of the 2019 Primary ballot and reported by each city and town the way the ballot will be laid out:

In the Atlanta town election, since there are no contested races there will be no Primary election held.

In the towns of Arcadia, Cicero, Sheridan and Westfield there will be no Democratic Primary since there are no candidates filed.

In Noblesville and Fishers there will be ballots in both the Republican and Democratic Primary.

In Carmel, there will be a Republican and Democratic ballot in the precincts that make up Carmel Districts 1, 2 4 & 6. There will be no Democratic ballot in precincts of Districts 3 and 5 because there are no Democratic candidates filed.

Mr. Purvis moved to adjourn, Clerk Williams seconded, and it was approved unanimously.