

MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023 - 9:00 A.M.
OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS
LEC CONFERENCE ROOM
301 WASHINGTON STREET, OCONTO WI 54153
www.co.oconto.wi.us

BOARD OF CANVASSERS PRESENT: Ron Leja, Mary Woods, Nancy Brye, Kathy Goldschmidt

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Pytleski, County Clerk

1. Call to Order
Kim Pytleski, County Clerk, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Kathy Goldschmidt was designated as the official minute taker.
2. Election Recap
 - Village of Suring had a paper jam. After consulting with Command Central, jam was cleared and machine ballot count was one more than voter numbers issued. The jammed ballot was read twice. WEC advised could legally use machine tape and document on the inspector's statement. Village of Suring Municipal Board of Canvassers decided to conduct a hand count to verify totals and corrected the election results tape.
 - Command Central had three phone calls from Oconto County Municipal Clerk's on Election Day: Town of Village of Suring had a jam, Town of Spruce vote count on the poll book was off from machine count, all good and City of Oconto needed help changing the time before the polls opened.
 - Oconto County did not have any provisional ballots or registered write-ins for any state or county offices.
 - Town of Brazeau had to hand count a few ballots with the Coleman School District race.
 - Clerk Pytleski stated next year the county will order ballots at 100% of registered voters for any municipalities with 200 voters or less.
 - Minutes and list of irregularities will be sent before the next election in 2024 as a refresher to municipal clerks and poll workers.
 - Municipal Clerks recommended a substitute call-in list for chief inspectors be compiled.
3. Review and Inspect Documents from each Reporting Unit necessary to complete the April 4, 2023 Spring Election Documents were reviewed and inspected.
4. May Recess for Lunch – No lunch was taken.
5. List of Irregularities
 - Town of Abrams – Election night call in totals: used 1st Ballot Style instead of "Total All Ballots".
 - Town of Bagley – Absentee voters did not have a red "A" marked by the voters number in the poll book.
 - Town of Brazeau – Absentee voter numbers were in red but did not have a red "A" next to them. Last voter number was circled but not in red. Documented 8 ballots were remade on the inspector's statement but did not say why.
 - Town of Breed – Start time on tape was 7:04 a.m. Machine can be turned on, just cannot vote until 7:00 a.m. Absentee voters did not have a red "A" marked by the voters number in the poll book and last voter number was not circled in red.
 - Town of Doty – Allowed two people to vote with expired driver's license, this incident was not initialed on the inspector's statement. Last voter number in poll book was not circled in red.
 - Town of Gillett – last voter number in poll book was not circled in red. Chief Inspector did not initial by pre-election/post-election lines on the inspectors statement.
 - Town of How – Last voter number was circled but not in red.
 - Town of Lakewood – No Zero tape.
 - Town of Lena – Submitted a copy of the poll book instead of an original, could not tell if the "A" by the absentee voters was in red or the last voter number circled in red.
 - Town of Little Suamico – Absentee voter numbers were in red but were not marked with a red "A".
 - Town of Maple Valley – No "A" was marked next to the absentee voters and tamper evident seal for ballot bag was not documented on the inspector's statement.
 - Town of Morgan – Spouses assisted each other when voting. Poll book did not have individuals write assist in poll book by their names. See Manual Reference below.
 - Town of Mountain – Tamper Evident Seal number for the ballot bag was not documented on the inspector's statement.
 - Town of Oconto – Did not fill out "Total Number of Ballots Cast" line on the inspector's statement.

- Town of Oconto Falls – absentee voter numbers were written in red but not documented with a red “A”.
 - Town of Pensaukee – absentee voter numbers were written in red but not documented with a red “A”.
 - Town of Riverview – Number of ballots in excess of total number of voter’s line not filled in on the inspector’s statement. Canvass questioned what code “OT” stands for, not listed as a code on the back of inspector’s statement. Stated ballot was rejected but not why.
 - Town of Spruce - Absentee voter numbers were in red but did not have a red “A” next to them.
 - Town of Stiles – put “Total All Ballot” numbers on the general tally sheet and time on machines were not changed or documented on the inspector’s statements. Chain of Custody label was put on the 110 Envelope instead of the Chain of Custody envelope.
 - Town of Townsend – Sent photo copy of poll book to county so could not confirm if absentee voters were documented in red and last voter number circled in red. The letter “A” was not documented by the absentee voters’ numbers.
 - Town of Underhill – Absentee voter numbers were in red but were not marked with a red “A”.
 - Village of Suring – Hand counted all ballots due to a jam. Did not submit a tally sheet for referendum questions and poll workers did not sign general tally sheets submitted. Oconto County Board of Canvassers used the corrected numbers on the results tape when reporting to Oconto County on election night.
 - City of Gillett – Transferred “Total of all Ballots” onto the general tally sheet. Should only be handed counted ballots or for registered write-ins.
 - City of Oconto – Entire poll book was marked in red ink, no “A” marked next to absentee voters and last voter number not circled in red. Did not document why poll book had more voters than ballots on the inspectors statement. Broke seals on machine to check.
 - City of Oconto Falls – “A” for absentee voters in the poll book not marked in red.
6. Verification of tamper-evident serial numbers from the voting equipment have been recorded on random selection of 10 Reporting Unit’s EL-104 Inspector’s Statements, and have been initialed by the Chief Election Inspector.

The Oconto County Board of Canvass reviewed and verified tamper-evident serial numbers were documented and initialed by the Chief Election Inspectors for the Town(s) of Brazeau, Chase, Doty, Lakewood, Morgan, Oconto, Riverview, and Spruce, Cities of Oconto, and Oconto Falls. Discrepancies: Town of Lakewood - tamper evident seal number on the ballot container certificate (EL-101) was not documented and Town of Morgan – Chief Inspector did not initial by the pre-election or post-election seal numbers.

7. Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Manual References:

Election Date Manual, page 131 (c) states the last voter number on both lists should be circled in red.

Election Day Manual, page 97 (1) Issue a voter number and record the voter number on the voter list. Document that this as an absentee ballot (red “A” next to the voter number). Also, record on the absentee ballot log that the ballot was counted.

Per Election Day Manual, page 63, Assisting Electors All electors have a right to receive assistance marking their ballots if they cannot read or write; have difficulty reading, writing, or understanding English; or have a disability that prevents them from marking the ballot or using the voting equipment. When one of these conditions is indicated, election officials must inform the elector of their right to receive assistance. An elector may select anyone to provide assistance in marking his or her ballot other than the voter’s employer or an officer or agent of a labor organization which represents the voter. An election inspector can, and should, provide assistance if requested. **Procedure** If an elector informs the election inspector that he or she requires assistance marking his or her ballot, the election inspector should: Election Day Manual September 2020 63 1. Give the elector a voter number and issue them a ballot. 2. The elector must sign the poll list. a. If the elector cannot sign the poll list the election inspectors should write, “Exempt by order of inspectors” in the signature line. b. Election inspectors should have signature guides and page magnifiers available for those electors who have difficulty seeing. 3. Record the name and address of the person assisting the elector on the poll list. a. Electors may select any individual to assist them to cast their vote, including an election inspector. Exception: the elector’s employer or an officer or agent of a labor organization that represents the elector may not assist the elector. b. The person assisting the elector does not have to be a qualified elector. 4. A person who assists a voter must certify on the back of the ballot that it was marked with their assistance before depositing the ballot in the ballot box. 5. This incident should be recorded on the Inspectors’ Statement (EL-104).

REMINDER: Only thing that should be red in the poll book is the "A" for Absentee voter and the circle around the last voter number.

Kathy Goldschmidt, Deputy Clerk Recorder
Posted 4/12/23