

A meeting of the Board of Election Commissioners of St. Louis County was held by video conference, Tuesday, April 21, 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent executive order. Twenty members of the public took the opportunity to attend the meeting by calling into a conference line.

Present at the meeting were:

Sharon Buchanan-McClure	Chair
Trudi McCollum Foushee	Secretary
Matthew Potter	Commissioner
Peggy Barnhart	Commissioner
Steve Garrett	Attorney
Rick Stream	Director
Eric Fey	Director
Christian Tolbert	Deputy Director
Julie Leicht	Deputy Director

Chair Buchanan-McClure called the meeting to order and a roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

No one submitted comment for the Public Forum. Chair Buchanan-McClure then asked if everyone had read the minutes from the March 24 meeting. Commissioner Potter made a motion that the minutes be approved as amended and Secretary Foushee seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved. Chair Buchanan-McClure then asked if everyone had read the closed minutes from the March 24 meeting. Secretary Foushee made a motion that the minutes be approved and Commissioner Barnhart seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved. Chair Buchanan-McClure then revisited the minutes from the March meeting, including the February closed minutes, the minutes from the special meeting on March 13, the closed minutes from the special meeting on March 13, and the closed minutes from the executive meeting on March 18. Commissioner Barnhart made a motion that the minutes be approved and Secretary Foushee seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Chair Buchanan-McClure called for the directors' reports. Director Stream asked the Board to defer directors' reports to Old and New Business.

Under Old Business, the directors discussed implementation for the June municipal election. Director Stream discussed office personnel policies. Five weeks ago, staff began biweekly attendance in order to practice social distancing. Since then, staff has continually wiped down surfaces and door handles every day, and have had their temperatures taken each morning. Starting this week, those who are on their work-from-home week have been required to come to the office for two evenings from 5-9pm to accomplish duties for the June election, including several supervisors present each night. Director Fey discussed polling places. The Polling Places department has been working feverishly to secure polling places for the June election. We are only using about half of the normal amount of places for June, and only public buildings to ensure that they will be available on Election Day since by law they are required to be available. Private

buildings may cancel last minute, as a few did in March. We feel confident that these buildings are large enough for social distancing. Director Fey said the Secretary of State's office contacted local election authorities last week to share they are procuring absentee ballot drop boxes that counties can use for the upcoming elections. We are unsure when they will be delivered. We have contacted the director of St. Louis County Public Libraries who has committed to host a drop box at each of the 20 branches. Last week, BOE directors met with different directors of municipal libraries to see if they would host a drop box. With an increase in absentee voting, we believe this will allow us to receive ballots back much faster than through the post office and keeps the ballots isolated.

Deputy Director Leicht discussed staffing. With 8 workers at 159 polling places, we will need about 1,300 workers for June. The directors sent a letter to the workers detailing measures that will be instituted to safeguard election workers and the voters on Election Day. We hope this effort will make workers feel comfortable and secure to work. The Judge Coordinators have begun calling workers to answer questions or concerns regarding precautionary measures. So far, 200 workers have said they will work in June, and about 20% of the workers have said they will not due to the coronavirus. We are grateful to have a database of over 4,000 workers to help us, and are also confident that staffing will be complete with a reduced number of polling places. Many workers have already signed up for training class. The Training department is creating videos for remote training. We are only training Poll Pad Judges in our office. There will be three concurrent classes at a time, with 10 workers in each class. We will provide gloves and masks for trainers and workers and rooms will be cleaned between each class. Classes begin on May 11th for two weeks.

Deputy Director Tolbert discussed inventorying supplies from the March election. Staff is also updating our website to make sure we provide as much information as we can regarding the June election. The Logistics department has laid the groundwork for logic and accuracy testing of the equipment which will begin soon. We have procured a new asset module through Poll Chief. Support staff from REJIS (Regional Justice Information Systems) has been working in-house since we have recently lost our IT Manager and Desktop Support Manager. They have been working on getting laptops ready so more staff can work from home. Deputy Director Tolbert gave an update on registered voter counts: 640,182 active; 96,133 inactive, totaling 736,315 registered voters for the month of March.

Under New Business, Director Fey announced that our office has sent absentee applications for the June, August, and November elections to all voters over the age of 60 (about 230,000). So far, we have received back about 15,000 applications, totaling about 35,000 for the June election. It is possible that more absentee mail ballots will be cast for this municipal election than the 2016 presidential election. In April 2019, about 109,000 ballots were cast with about 10% being absentee mail, and the November 2016 election had about 40,000 absentee mail ballots. Director Stream agreed and believes we could receive about 1,000 applications a day. Staff is busy processing these applications and the ballots are quickly being mailed by Mulligan.

Under Financial/Budget, Director Stream explained the March reports and announced that we will soon begin the process for the 2021 budget. The plan is for the directors to present their budget to the Board at the June meeting, and for the Board to approve the budget at the July meeting.

Commissioner Potter requested the directors prepare a draft of the budget for Commissioners as soon as possible.

Under Personnel, Director Stream explained the March report.

There were no legal matters to discuss in the open meeting.

Chair Buchanan-McClure announced that the Board would adjourn after the closed session. Commissioner Potter moved that the meeting be closed pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1),(2),(3), (12) and (13) to discuss litigation and personnel matters. Commissioner Barnhart seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the votes were as follows: Chair Buchanan-McClure, aye; Secretary Foushee, aye; Commissioner Barnhart, aye; Commissioner Potter, aye.



Sharon Buchanan-McClure, Chair



Trudi McCollum Foushee, Secretary