INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ROOM
MASON HISTORICAL COURTHOUSE, THIRD FLOOR
MASON, MICHIGAN

CANVASSERS PRESENT: Rebecca Bahar-Cook
Joe Groff
Ted Lawson
Jude Wells

CANVASSERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Barb Byrum, Ingham County Clerk
Liz Noel, Elections/Clerk Coordinator
Jennifer Shuster, East Lansing City Clerk
Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

Meeting Called to Order
Clerk Byrum called the November 6, 2019 meeting of the Board of Canvassers to order at 1:01 p.m.

Oaths of Office
Clerk Byrum issued oaths of office to newly appointed canvassers Ted Lawson and Jude Wells.

Approval of Agenda
Moved by Canvasser Groff, supported by Canvasser Bahar-Cook, to approve the agenda.

Canvasser Groff moved to amend the agenda as follows:

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

V. Approval of August 7, 2019 minutes

VI. Remarks from Clerk Byrum

VII. Discussion

VIII. Canvass of the November 5, 2019 Special Election

IX. Certification of the November 5, 2019 Special Election
X. Other Business

XI. Public Comment

XII. Time Cards

XIII. Recess/Adjourn

This was considered a friendly amendment.

Motion carried unanimously.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Moved by Canvasser Groff, supported by Canvasser Lawson, to nominate Canvasser Bahar-Cook as Chair of the Board of Canvassers.

Moved by Canvasser Bahar-Cook, supported by Canvasser Wells, to also nominate Canvasser Groff as Vice Chair of the Board of Canvassers.

The motion to nominate both Chair and Vice Chair carried unanimously.

Approval of August 7, 2019 Minutes

Moved by Canvasser Lawson, supported by Canvasser Groff to approve the August 7, 2019 minutes.

The August 7, 2019 minutes were amended as follows:

The Board of Canvassers noted for the record that the City of Lansing Ward 2, Precinct 15 had the following note in the remarks: “[An individual] registered at the SOS in East Lansing and they gave him a receipt and directed him to this precinct to vote today. WE [sic] called downtown and suggested that he go to Washington for an Absentee ballot. He decided not to.” Motion to approve the minutes, as amended, carried unanimously.

The Board of Canvassers noted for the record that the City of Lansing Ward 1, Precinct 4 Poll Book was missing the signature and date of the person administering the oath for additional signatures of those not present at the open of polls. This was later corrected by the Precinct Chair.

The Board of Canvassers noted for the record that the City of Lansing Ward 3, Precinct 29 Poll Book was missing the signature and date of the person administering the oath for additional signatures of those not present at the open of polls. This was later corrected by the Precinct Chair.

Motion to approve the minutes, as amended, carried unanimously.

Remarks from Clerk Byrum

Clerk Byrum stated that it had been a reasonably quiet election, but once the polls closed, it got louder. She further stated that most of the questions posed to her Office were from part-time local clerks, including questions about voter registration and where same-day registrants may vote.
Clerk Byrum stated that some clerks were reminded of the opportunity for voters to complete an affidavit if a voter is not in possession of a photo ID. She further stated that there was a reoccurring issue with voters in the Dansville Schools District, who were not showing up on the precinct list, which would be addressed through the Qualified Voter File.

Clerk Byrum stated that the City of East Lansing had some opportunities and therefore had requested to be canvassed first. She further stated that East Lansing City Clerk Jennifer Shuster had been forthcoming and had communicated all the issues found to the Clerk’s Office, and she had been extremely transparent when she could have done other things.

Clerk Byrum stated that East Lansing Precinct 10 had 112 ballots cast through the tabulator, and only 111 voters. She further stated that Clerk Shuster had also noticed that some of the bags had not been sealed properly at the end of the night.

Clerk Byrum stated that Clerk Shuster took these issues to heart and commended her for her communication. She further stated that the City of East Lansing was the last to drop off their materials on Election Night, but Clerk Shuster had been in constant communication about when she expected to arrive at the County Clerk’s Office.

Chairperson Bahar-Cook asked what the ramification of improperly sealed bags was.

Clerk Byrum stated that the results of that precinct could still be certified, but the precinct may be uncountable. She further stated that she was confident in Clerk Shuster’s training of her election inspectors.

Discussion.

Clerk Byrum stated there had been some opportunities with the County website when uploading results on Election Night. She further stated that the County had recently transitioned to using Revize for their websites, which she had recently learned was notorious for not allowing users to refresh the website.

Clerk Byrum stated after the canvass, her Office would review whether the issues stemmed from the computer used to upload results or the website itself. She further stated that a Dropbox was also being explored for the upcoming elections, which would allow for quicker upload of larger files.

Discussion.

Clerk Byrum stated that the County was still contracting with Election Source for an interactive map reporting tool. She further stated that the map was glitchy on Election Night, and she was not pleased with the performance.

Clerk Byrum stated she would reach out to local candidates and see how they liked to receive the results, and make a decision by the end of 2020 on whether or not she would continue using the map.

Discussion.

Canvasser Groff asked how many same-day registrants there were.

Clerk Byrum stated she did not know that answer yet.
Chairperson Bahar-Cook asked what percentage of eligible voters voted in the election.

Liz Noel, Election/Clerk Coordinator, stated 16% of eligible voters across the County voted.

Canvasser Wells asked if same-day registrants were required to provide ID.

Clerk Byrum stated that State Law and Michigan Bureau of Elections guidance determined the required documents individuals who register on Election Day must provide.

**Discussion**

Canvasser Groff asked if the Board of Canvassers positions were gender-specific.

Clerk Byrum stated the Board of Canvassers positions were not gender-specific, they were appointed by the County Board of Commissioners.

Canvasser Groff asked if Clerk Byrum had asked for only female nominees for the recent Republican appointee to the Board of Canvassers.

Clerk Byrum stated she did not ask for females, she had only asked for Republicans.

Canvasser Groff stated that Yavonne Whitbeck, Ingham Republican Party Chairperson, had told him that Clerk Byrum had only asked for female nominees.

Clerk Byrum stated she did not recall asking for female nominees.

**Discussion**

Clerk Byrum stated that Ms. Whitbeck had not met the deadlines for nominations, and then Clerk Byrum opened the nominations back up for Republicans, as the first nominees suggested were not available. She further stated she asked for other individuals willing to serve, and the Board of Commissioners had made the appointment.

Canvasser Groff asked if Canvasser Wells’ husband being an alternate Canvasser would be an issue.

Clerk Byrum stated that it should not be an issue, the only known issue with being a Canvasser is if the Canvasser was on the ballot. She further stated she could ask the Bureau of Elections for clarification.

The Board of Canvassers certified ballot containers from the City of Leslie.

**Canvass of the November 5, 2019 Special Election**

The Board of Canvassers commenced canvassing the November 5, 2019 Election.

Clerk Byrum stated there were no provisional ballots.

The Board of Canvassers noted for the record that City of East Lansing Precinct 10 showed 111 voters in the Poll Book, but 112 ballots cast. The Clerk was checking to see if all voters were entered properly and if sample ballot may have been included. Poll Book remarks said ballot 298 was discarded, but the stub for 298 is present. The stub from ballot 310 is missing.
The Board of Canvassers requested a hand count of the ballots by the Board of Canvassers. Clerk Shuster and Kathryn Gardner, Deputy East Lansing City Clerk, brought the ballots for Precinct 10. The hand count produced the same number of ballots as the tabulator counted. The Precinct Chairperson came in, and to his recollection, a spoiled ballot did not get marked as such and was tabulated.

The Board of Canvassers noted for the record that City of East Lansing Precinct 1 had a Challenged voter, but there was nothing in the remarks. It was discovered that it was a voter that registered to vote on Election Day.

The Board of Canvassers noted for the record that City of East Lansing Precinct 8 Ballot Summary showed zero ballots tabulated in the Poll Book. The count was corrected using the number of voters from the tabulator tape.

The Board of Canvassers noted for the record that City of East Lansing Precinct 11 Election Inspector’s Preparation Certificate did not have some boxes checked, Challenged Voters page was not marked as “none,” Election Inspector’s Completion Certificate boxes were not checked, Seal Verification did not go through the paper, and the signature of the person administering the oath was not signed. Clerk Shuster was able to provide remedies for the issues.

The Board of Canvassers noted for the record that City of East Lansing 14’s Poll Book did not have a signature for the Republican verification of ballot storage container. Clerk Shuster was able to provide the original paper that had a signature.

The Board of Canvassers noted for the record that City of Lansing Ward 1, Precinct 5 & 45 the number of ballots cast did not match the number of voters by one. Clerk Swope was able to determine that there was a duplicate ballot number recorded, as ballot #00051316 was spoiled by voter 318 but cast by voter 314 in the Poll Book.

The Board of Canvassers noted for the record that City of Lansing Ward 1, Precinct 2 Chairperson did not sign on Statement of Votes section. Sam Wilcox came in to sign the Poll Book.

Clerk Swope stated that there had been a ballot found after the close of polls that had not yet been counted, though it should have been.

The Board of Canvassers opened the envelope and added the vote tally to the appropriate candidates and total votes cast.

Recess

The meeting was recessed at 5:00 p.m.
INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 2019
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ROOM
MASON HISTORICAL COURTHOUSE, THIRD FLOOR
MASON, MICHIGAN

CANVASSERS PRESENT:  Rebecca Bahar-Cook
                       Joe Groff
                       Ted Lawson
                       Jude Wells

CANVASSERS ABSENT:  None

OTHERS PRESENT:  Barb Byrum, Ingham County Clerk
                 Liz Noel, Elections/Clerk Coordinator
                 Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

Meeting Called to Order
Chairperson Bahar-Cook called the meeting back to order at 10:00 a.m.

Canvass of the November 5, 2019 Special Election

The Board of Canvassers continued canvassing the November 5, 2019 Election.

The Board of Canvassers requested that the Ingham County Clerk remind those clerks who did their own
training of the importance of precinct workers contacting the clerk's office if an extra ballot was found
lying around.

The Board of Canvassers noted for the record that City of Lansing Ward 2, Precinct 17's seal was not
secure.

Discussion ensued regarding the review of Poll Book errors.

Moved by Canvasser Groff that if either the Election Inspector's Preparation Certificate or the
Completion Certificate is not completely filled out in the Poll Book, including boxes, then the Canvassers
will deliberate and decide whether or not to bring someone in, and if a majority cannot agree, then
someone would be brought in. Canvasser Lawson supported the motion.

The motion was amended to include that the clerk would be asked for their copy of the certificate before
calling someone in. This was considered a friendly amendment.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Canvassers noted for the record that City of Lansing Ward 4, Precinct 44's blue seal on the
ballot bag did not seal properly and unhooked on arrival to election office. It was brought to Clerk Swope
and Clerk Byrum's attention.
The Board of Canvassers noted for the record that City of Lansing AV Counting Board’s QVF report for AV ballot tally included returned and rejected as opposed to counted ballots.

Certification of the November 5, 2019 Special Election

The Board of Canvassers certified the November 5, 2019 Election.

The Board of Canvassers noted for the record that the County Clerk’s staff was given the authority to verify signatures and seal Poll Books once election inspectors fixed the errors after the meeting was adjourned.

Other Business

Chair Bahar-Cook stated she had already asked when ballot container certifications would next occur, and it was determined they would be in 2022.

Chair Bahar-Cook stated the Board of Canvassers needed to elect officers in January 2020.

Discussion.

The Board of Canvassers tentatively scheduled their Organizational Meeting for January 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room at the Grady Porter Building in Lansing.

Canvasser Groff stated that the Board of Canvassers had lost two very knowledgeable experienced people on the Board recently. He asked if it was up to the Board of Canvassers to do something to honor them.

Ms. Noel stated that the Board of Commissioners would be reviewing a resolution to honor Mary Kay Scullion at their next meeting. She further stated that Ms. Whitbeck had been asked for input about a resolution to honor Kathy Prout, and she had indicated that Ms. Prout would not be interested in an honorary resolution.

Canvasser Groff stated he thought an honorary resolution should be done anyhow.

Discussion.

Ms. Noel stated the Board of Commissioners Meeting would be November 26, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Discussion.

Public Comment

None.

Time Cards

The Board of Canvassers completed time cards.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD