BAY COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION - NEW TREASURER
FEBRUARY 13, 2019

THE BAY COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION MET ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019 IN THE OFFICE OF THE BAY COUNTY CLERK. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 8:05 A.M. WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

ROLL CALL: SHAWNA WALRAVEN, COUNTY TREASURER
CYNTHIA A. LUCZAK, COUNTY CLERK
JAN MINER, PROBATE JUDGE, CHAIRPERSON

THE ANNUAL MEETING WAS CALLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ORGANIZING ELECTION MATTERS FOR THE YEAR 2019, INTRODUCING THE NEWLY APPOINTED COUNTY TREASURER TO THE COMMITTEE AND PASSAGE OF THE 2019 RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD FOR EXPENDITURE OF COUNTY FUNDS FOR ELECTION EXPENSES.

THIS MEETING WAS HELD UNDER STATE STATUTE, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING ACT AND POSTED IN THE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC PLACES.

MEMBERS DISCUSSED MANY CHANGES IN ELECTION LAW WHICH WERE APPROVED WITH PASSAGE OF PROPOSAL III AT THE NOVEMBER 6, 2018 GENERAL ELECTION AND ALSO THE LAME DUCK PERIOD OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE AT YEAR END.

PROPOSAL III, FROM THE NOVEMBER 6, 2018 ELECTION, ALLOWED ALL CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES WHO WERE QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN MICHIGAN TO : 1) AUTOMATICALLY REGISTERED TO VOTE WHEN APPLYING FOR OR UPDATING A DRIVER LICENSE OR STATE ISSUED IDENTIFICATION CARD, UNLESS THE PERSON DECLINED. 2) ALLOWED SIMULTANEOUS REGISTRATION TO VOTE WITH PROOF OF RESIDENCY AND OBTAIN A BALLOT DURING THE 2 WEEK PERIOD PRIOR TO AN ELECTION, UP TO AND INCLUDING ELECTION DAY. 3) OBTAIN AN ABSENT VOTE BALLOT WITHOUT PROVIDING A REASON AND 4) CAST A STRAIGHT TICKET VOTE FOR ALL CANDIDATES OF A PARTICULAR POLITICAL PARTY WHEN VOTING IN A PARTISAN GENERAL ELECTION. (THIS HAD BEEN ELIMINATED BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE SEPTEMBER 1, 2018 PRIOR TO THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION).

FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMING TREASURER WALRAVEN, THE RECALL OF GIBSON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR AND CLERK ON THE NOVEMBER 6,

2018 BALLOT WERE ALSO DISCUSSED. FORMER SUPERVISOR DIANE PIENIOZEK WAS RECALLED AND REPLACED BY LAURA CHAPMAN REYNOLDS WHILE CLERK CHRISTINE COUSINEAU RETAINED HER SEAT. EACH OF THESE OFFICIALS WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERMS OF OFFICE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020.

CLERK LUCZAK TOLD OF THE DECEMBER 5TH AND 7TH, 2018 DATES WHICH A RECOUNT OF VOTES CAST IN THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE 1ST DISTRICT COUNTY COMMISSION SEAT WERE CONDUCTED. THE ORIGINAL VOTE DIFFERENTIAL FOR CANDIDATES MICHAEL DURANCZYK (D) AND DEFEATED OPPONENT KEVIN BURKE (R) WAS FOUR (4) VOTES. IN THE DAYS PROCEEDING THE RECOUNT PROCESS, THE ENDING VOTE TOTAL WAS ONLY TWO (2) VOTES WITH CANDIDATE DURANCZYK AS THE DECLARED WINNER OF THE RACE.

PASSAGE OF PROPOSAL III WILL BRING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE ELECTION PROCESS BEGINNING 2019 INCLUDING EASIER REGISTRATION FOR VOTERS, NO REASON ABSENTEE BALLOT OPTIONS AND UPDATED NOTICES OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTION FOR THE ELECTORATE.

HOUSE BILL 4700, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 7, 2019 MOVED THE DUTY OF CERTIFYING ELECTED PRECINCT DELEGATES FROM THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRECINCT INSPECTOR TO THE COUNTY CLERK AND MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 7 DAYS OF THE PRIMARY ELECTION. PRECINCT DELEGATES WHO FILE BY WRITE-IN MEANS MUST NOW ALSO FILE WITH THE COUNTY CLERK (RATHER THAN THE CITY OR TOWNSHIP CLERK) AND CAN STILL FILE AS A WRITE-IN AT THE PRECINCT ON ELECTION DAY.

HOUSE BILL 4734, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 7, 2019, ALLOWS THE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, SHERIFF, REGISTER OF DEEDS TO BE AN APPOINTEE ON THE ELECTION COMMISSION TO FILL A NECESSARY VACANCY. ALSO, THE COUNTY CLERK MAY EMPLOY ASSISTANTS TO PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE CANVASS BOARD AND COMPENSATE THEM ACCORDINGLY FOR THEIR SERVICES.

HOUSE BILL 4747 AND 4748, APPROVED THE FILING OF A $100 FILING FEE FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS AS OPPOSED TO FILING PETITIONS ONLY.

HOUSE BILL 4734, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 7, 2019, REQUIRES ALL LOCAL JURISDICTIONS TO USE THE ELECTRONIC POLL BOOK FOR ALL FUTURE ELECTIONS BEGINNING 2019 AND WILL EFFECT MONITOR TOWNSHIP.

THE 2019 ELECTIONS INCLUDE THE RECALL OF KAWKAWLIN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR DENNIS BRAGIEL, A BANGOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BOND PROPOSAL AND A REESE PUBLIC SCHOOL SINKING FUND ISSUE FOR THE MAY 7, 2019 BALLOT. A PRIMARY ELECTION MAY BE CALLED FOR THE ODD YEAR, CITY OF BAY CITY EVEN NUMBERED COMMISSION WARDS AND ALSO THE MAYOR SEAT, SHOULD THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES FILING WARRANT A PRIMARY ON AUGUST 6, 2019. GENERAL ELECTION OF ODD YEAR AND OTHER MATTERS UNANNOUNCED AT THIS TIME, FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2019.

WITH THAT RECAP OF THE YEAR TO FOLLOW, CLERK LUCZAK MOVED FOR PASSAGE OF THE ANNUAL 2019 RESOLUTION WHICH AUTHORIZED THE CLERK TO PROCEED WITH ELECTION DUTIES AND THE EXPENDITURE OF COUNTY FUNDS AS NECESSARY. TREASURER WALRAVEN SUPPORTED PASSAGE OF THE MOTION BY A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 8:45 A.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

CYNTHIA A. LUCZAK, CLERK