

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF
MUNICIPAL OFFICERS ELECTORAL BOARD
OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF
INITIAL MEETING**

JANUARY 4, 2021

APPROVED MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair O’Hara called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and Village Clerk Megan Michael called the roll.

The following were present:

Chair: Kathleen O’Hara

Trustee: Mark Dewart

Also Present: Megan Michael, Village Clerk
Peter Friedman, Village Attorney (VA)
Stewart Weiss, Assistant Village Attorney (AVA)
Drew Irvin, Village Administrator
Glen Cole, Assistant to the Village Administrator (ATVA)

Chair O’Hara said the meeting is being conducted via Zoom pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Open Meetings Act as well as Governor Pritzker’s latest disaster proclamation, which has declared in-person meetings of more than 10 persons to be unsafe and imprudent at this time. She noted that as the Chair of the Board she also finds that it would be imprudent at this time to conduct in person meetings of the Electoral Board and that the Village Administrator is present at Village Hall.

2. ITEM #2 - INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY BOARD CHAIR

Chair O’Hara said the Village’s Municipal Officer’s Electoral Board is a special public body that is convened for the sole purpose of conducting hearings and making rulings on objections to nominating petitions submitted by candidates for Village offices. The Membership of the Electoral Board is set by statute and members are required to serve unless they have a direct conflict – either they are candidates whose own petitions are being challenged or they are running in a race in which their opponent’s petitions are being challenged. None of these circumstances exist, and thus the makeup of the Lake Bluff Electoral Board is required by statute to be the Village President, the Village Clerk, and the Village Trustee who has served the longest, which is Trustee Mark Dewart. President O’Hara said the Village Clerk received four objections, three to candidates for Village Trustee, and one to a candidate for Village Clerk. At today’s meeting the Electoral Board will deal with some preliminary procedural matters, call each of the cases to determine if the parties are present, and accept appearances from parties’ legal counsel and any preliminary motions. The

Board will also schedule full hearings on each of the objection cases and continue its proceedings to a date certain (January 8, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.). Today's meeting will be for procedural issues only and will not involve any substantive rulings on the objections or the petitions.

3. **ITEM 3 - REVIEW OF LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES BY BOARD'S LEGAL COUNSEL**

VA Friedman said the Lake Bluff Municipal Electoral Board was called to order by Chair Kathleen O'Hara and as indicated by Chair O'Hara the Village Clerk received four objections, three to candidates for Village Trustee, and one to a candidate for Village Clerk.

VA Friedman reviewed legal and procedural matters that the Lake Bluff Municipal Electoral Board would need to consider.

VA Friedman asked the Board if they have any questions regarding the rules of procedure, there were no questions from the Board.

4. **ITEM 4 - CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURES**

Chair O'Hara introduced and summarized the proposed rules of procedure which were included in all the Call Packets sent to all members of the Electoral Board and all parties and which must be formally adopted by the Electoral Board.

Hearing no questions from the Board, Objectors, Candidates and Public, Trustee Dewart moved to adopt the rules of procedures. Village Clerk Michael seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (3) O'Hara, Dewart and Michaels
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)

5. **ITEM 5 - CALL OF CASES**

Chair O'Hara said each case will be called for preliminary matters only, including filing of appearances, acceptance and consideration of preliminary motions, and scheduling of subsequent hearings.

Chair O'Hara called Case 20 MOEB 1 – IN THE MATTER OF THE OBJECTIONS OF LINDA K. HINDE TO THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF AARON TOWLE AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF TRUSTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF.

VA Friedman asked the parties if they have filed an appearance. Ms. Hinde replied yes and Mr. Towle replied no. VA Friedman said as a matter of procedure an appearance must be filed if an individual is representing themselves without an attorney.

VA Friedman asked if either party had any preliminary motions or matters that they would like to address regarding the case. Ms. Hinde and Mr. Towle replied no.

VA Friedman said he would like to confirm that the nature of the case has no factual issues in dispute in this case. The question is not a legal matter whether or not the petitions are valid, but rather there is dispute about the legal sufficiency of the documents that were filed by the Candidate. If that is the case then the question is does either party want to file any legal arguments with regards to whether or not the objection should be sustained or overrule. The Board will give each party the opportunity to file legal arguments prior to the first full hearing on this Case. The objector may stand on their petition, if the objector desires. Ms. Hinde and Mr. Towle replied they did not intend to file any additional legal arguments prior to the full hearing on the case.

Village Clerk Michael made a motion to continue the case until Friday, January 8, at 1:30 p.m. Trustee Dewart seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (3) Dewart, Michael and O'Hara
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)

Chair O'Hara called Case 20 MOEB 2- IN THE MATTER OF THE OBJECTIONS OF FREDRIC B. LESSER TO THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF KATHERINE HATCH AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE CLERK OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF.

VA Friedman asked if either party filed appearances. Ms. Hatch said she is in the process of drafting an appearance. Following a comment from Ms. Lesser, VA Friedman said he will review the form submitted and advise him if any additional action is needed.

VA Friedman asked if there were any preliminary motions or matters to discuss in this case from either party. Mr. Lesser and Ms. Hatch replied no.

VA Friedman said the nature of this case appears to be of a legal nature as opposed to any factual dispute. Mr. Lesser and Ms. Hatch replied they have no further factual evidence or testimony that they intend to provide.

VA Friedman asked if the parties prefer to submitting legal brief or make legal arguments orally at the continuation on Friday. Mr. Lesser and Ms. Hatch said they would prefer to provide oral arguments on Friday.

Trustee Dewart made a motion to continue the case until Friday, January 8 at 1:30 p.m. Village Clerk Michael seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (3) Michael, O'Hara and Dewart
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)

Chair O'Hara called Case 20 MOEB 3- IN THE MATTER OF THE OBJECTIONS OF FREDRIC B. LESSER TO THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF SUSAN H. RIDER AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF VILLAGE TRUSTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF.

VA Freidman asked Ms. Rider if she filed an appearance, Ms. Rider replied no.

VA Friedman asked if there were any preliminary motions or matters to discuss in this case from either party. Mr. Lesser and Ms. Rider replied no.

VA Friedman said the nature of this case appears to be of a legal nature as opposed to any factual dispute. Mr. Lesser and Ms. Rider replied they have no further factual evidence or testimony that they intend to provide.

VA Freidman asked if the parties prefer to submitting legal brief or make arguments orally at the continuation on Friday. Mr. Lesser and Ms. Rider said they would prefer to provide oral arguments on Friday. In addition, Ms. Rider requested that this case be placed last on the call because she has a prior standing commitment. There were no objections from the Board or Objector.

Village Clerk Michael made a motion to continue the case until January 15 at 1:30 p.m. Trustee Dewart seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (3) O'Hara, Dewart and Michael
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)

Chair O'Hara called Case 20 MOEB 4- IN THE MATTER OF THE OBJECTIONS OF LINDA K. HINDE TO THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF MARY A. COLLINS AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF TRUSTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF.

VA Freidman asked if either party filed an appearance. Ms. Hinde replied yes and Ms. Collins replied no.

VA Friedman asked if there were any preliminary motions or matters to discuss in this case from either party. Ms. Hinde and Ms. Collins replied no.

VA Friedman said the nature of this case appears to be of a legal nature as opposed to any factual dispute. Ms. Hinde and Ms. Collins replied they have no further factual evidence or testimony that they intend to provide.

VA Freidman asked if the parties prefer to submitting legal brief or make arguments orally at the on Friday. Ms. Hinde and Ms. Collins said they would prefer to provide oral arguments on Friday.

Trustee Dewart made a motion to continue the case until January 15 at 1:30 p.m. Village Clerk Michael seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (3) Dewart, Michael and O'Hara
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)

6. **ITEM 6 - PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair O'Hara opened the floor for public comments.

As there were no public comments, President O'Hara said the next meeting of the Electoral Board will be on Friday, January 8 at 1:30 p.m., via Zoom.

7. **ITEM 7 - ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Dewart moved to adjourn the meeting. Village Clerk Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote at 2:31 p.m.

Ayes: (3) Michael, O'Hara and Dewart
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Drew Irvin
Village Administrator/Deputy Village Clerk

Megan Michael
Village Clerk