

Commissioners

MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, *Chair*
WILLIAM J. KRESSE, *Commissioner/Secretary*

CHARLES HOLIDAY, JR., *Executive Director*



Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago

Regular Board Meeting

December 28, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

69 West Washington Street, 8th Floor Conference Room, Chicago, Illinois 60602

via WebEx video conference

Board Members:

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair

William J. Kresse, Commissioner/Secretary

Staff:

Charles Holiday, Executive Director [absent]

Sandra Aspera, Assistant Executive Director

Adam Lasker, General Counsel

Joan Agnew, Legal Counsel

Max Bever, Director of Public Information

Opal Walls, Procurement Officer

Aneta Turek, Manager – Human Resources

Lance Gough, Consultant

Trish Sheehy

Guests:

Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters of Chicago (LWV Chicago)

C. Betty Magness, Rainbow P.U.S.H.

Danielle Matzdorf, Arrow Messenger Service

Bryan Hayes (on WebEx as @BHSAILSfast), Chicago Documenters

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- II. Roll Call: Both members of the Board were present via WebEx video conference.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 14, 2021
Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of December 14, 2021. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Minutes were approved by 2:0 vote of the Board.
- V. Executive Director's Report
Executive Director Charles Holiday was absent. No Executive Director report was given.
 - A. Assistant Executive Director's Report

Assistant Executive Director Sandra Aspera reported:

Assistant Executive Director introduced the new Human Resources (HR) Manager, Aneta Turek. Ms. Aspera stated that Ms. Turek comes to the Board with extensive HR experience, and is a self-professed “HR Nerd”. The Chair welcomed Ms. Turek, “from one HR nerd to another”.

Ms. Turek thanked Ms. Aspera for the introduction to the Board and to all other participants at this meeting.

Ms. Turek stated that today is her 7th work day at the Board and provided some background. She has approximately 15 years’ experience with Human Resources. The last 10 years she was responsible for leadership training and development, legal compliance, retention strategy, as well as employee relations both domestically and internationally. Ms. Turek holds a Master’s Degree in Law Administration from Marie Curie-Sklodowska University. Ms. Turek is SHRM-CP (Society for Human Resource Management - Certified Professional) and SHRM-PHR (Professional in Human Resources) Certified. Ms. Turek has been a member of SHRM since 2011. Ms. Turek uses new technology to improve system processes. Ms. Turek believes that successful human resource leaders should deliver exceptional results to the organization by balancing the needs of the employees in the interest of the organization.

The Chair again welcomed Ms. Turek and looks forward to having Ms. Turek at the Board and making some great changes in that department and for the benefit of all Board employees. Commissioner Kresse also welcomed Ms. Turek.

Ms. Aspera continued the Assistant Executive Director’s report by stating that she’s continuing to work with the Office of Budget Management on the Board’s 2022 hire plan, which she will turn over to the new HR Manager once the finalized version is complete.

Beginning next week, Ms. Aspera will start working on the 2022-2023 Assistant Executive Director’s Strategic Plan

B. Public Information Director’s Report

Director of Public Information Max Bever reported:

Mr. Bever stated that he only had three updates to report.

We released our newest podcast episode titled “Remapping Chicago”. Mr. Bever again thanked Executive Director Charles Holiday and Al Chase, the Board’s Supervisor of Software Development.

We also have all the finalized district maps on our website. Mr. Bever thanked the Redistricting Team for their hard work and their hard work through the holidays. Mr. Bever stated that we will be sending out a press release to our media list making them aware of the posting.

We just wrapped up a social media ad campaign for Facebook, Instagram and Twitter with our budgeted money and that has pushed our Facebook and Twitter followers

to over four thousand for each. So, we are heading into next year with some new channels to share information ahead of the next elections.

VI. Old Business

- A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: No updates at this time.
- B. Electronic Poll Books: No updates at this time.
- C. Voting Equipment: No updates at this time.
- D. Legislation

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported:

There's nothing new at the moment. The Legislature is out of session. Both houses go into session next week on Tuesday. So, we will continue monitoring for things like judicial sub-circuits election-related legislation.

VII. New Business

- A. Approval of Professional Services Agreement for legal services with Barbara Goodman.

The Chair stated that Barbara Goodman has been providing us with legal services, both as a Hearing Officer and as a Contract Attorney for the Board. We would like to continue her very valuable services for the period of January 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023, which basically covers a number of elections. The services Ms. Goodman would provide include: Electoral Board preparation, administration and Hearing Officer duties along with any other legal services as requested by the Board. The rate during this time period would be \$210.00 per hour. Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the Professional Services Agreement as stated. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the Board.

- B. Consideration and Adoption of the First Revised 2022 Election Calendar.

The Chair mentioned that the First Revised Calendar will probably be the first of several.

Mr. Lasker stated that since the publication of the Board's original version of the 2022 Election Calendar, we have received the signature requirements, statistics and data from the County Clerk's office. So, we have added that data to the columns that previously said TBD (to be determined), plus we have made a few minor revisions to the calendar that are all identified on the inside cover. We will continue to update with changes due to litigation involving State Legislative Districts, updates to aldermanic wards and judicial sub-circuits, etc.

Commissioner Hernandez moved to adopt the First Amended 2022 Election Calendar, with revisions including the addition of signature requirement data for candidates seeking Cook County, MWRD (Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago) and Board of Review offices. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the Board.

VIII. Legal Report

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported:

Mr. Lasker noted that the Board's Procurement Officer Opal Walls was attending this meeting. Mr. Lasker has been working with Ms. Walls on a number of different procurement matters right now. Mr. Lasker pointed out that he and Ms. Walls are also working with Clinton Hurde and the Pre-Election Voting and Logistics (PREVAL) Department. They are already starting to prepare training materials for Early Voting and for the Investigators. The Board recently approved a contract with the company that will help produce video training sessions.

Mr. Lasker has also been in touch with Marni Malowitz, the General Counsel for the Illinois State Board of Elections (ISBE), to keep tabs on pending litigation involving State Legislative and Representative districts. With regards to the litigation in federal court, we are in a bit of a waiting game.

Commissioner Kresse asked Mr. Lasker if there was any change to the status of the Ward remaps. Mr. Lasker stated that he has not heard any updates, but reminded everyone that the City Council has the opportunity, now that a petition has been filed for referendum by one group, to try to get a majority vote to approve one of its own maps. If it can get 41 Aldermen to approve, then there would be no referendum. But at this point Mr. Lasker has not heard any updates

IX. Financial Report

- A. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the City of Chicago – 2021 Appropriation – 21-09 dated December 28, 2021 in the amount of \$727,226.21.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for City of Chicago – 2021 Appropriation – 21-09 dated December 28, 2021 in the amount of \$727,226.21. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the Board.

- B. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the County of Cook – 2021 Appropriation – 21-09 dated December 28, 2021 in the amount of \$16,930.00

Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve the Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the County of Cook – 2021 Appropriation – 21-09 dated December 28, 2021 in the amount of \$16,930.00. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the Board.

X. Public Comment: none

XI. Executive Session: Mr. Lasker said that there was no need for Executive Session today.

The Chair thanked everyone for being on the Board's last meeting for 2021 and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

The Chair said that we have an election or two before us. So, we are gearing up and stated that she's excited about it and hopes everyone at the meeting will be going on this journey with her.

The Chair took this opportunity to also thank the employees at the Board of Elections. They have done a tremendous job. She also thanked those who are present for everything that they do. She said that this has been a very good year, so thank you. 2022 is going to be very exciting and she looks forward to working with them. So, have a wonderful, wonderful New Year's this weekend.

XII. Adjournment: Commissioner Kresse moved to adjourn and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Kresse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Commissioner William J. Kresse
Secretary