

Union County Board of Elections had an emergency board meeting via Zoom on March 31, 2021 to discuss the Jerome Township Zoning Referendum. Those in attendance were William Steele, Chairman; Dean Cook, Board Member; Robert Parrott, Board Member; Rebecca Pokorski, Board Member; Tina LaRoche, Director; Brandon Clay, Deputy Director; Thayne Gray, from the Union County Prosecutor's office; Renee Error, Election Specialist; and Michelle Forrider, Election Specialist; Susie O'Brien, SOS liaison; and Tenah McMahon

Chairman Steele called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Jerome Referendum

The legal team for Wicked Chicken, LLC questioned the legal authority as to why the Jerome Township zoning referendum was being held until the November General Election last week. Director LaRoche and Deputy Clay asked Thayne Gray, Asst. Prosecuting Attorney, to respond to this since he gave the original opinion on the timing.

Mr. Gray, upon further studies, concluded that he missed the last clause in ORC which includes the provision that the zoning referendum shall be submitted to the electors at the next Primary or General Election whether there are candidates on the ballot or not. Therefore, Mr. Gray changed his original opinion and stated that we must place the referendum on the May 4th, 2021 ballot.

The Board of Election staff informed the board that ballot language had already been sent to the Secretary of State for approval and Ryan Shillito, RBM, is scheduled to come in on Friday and Monday to assist with programming the ballot and getting machines ready for early voting that starts Tuesday, April 6th, 2021. The new ballots will have the zoning referendum added to it.

Board Member Parrott asked who would pay for this election? Director LaRoche informed the Board that Jerome Township and Jonathon Alder schools will be responsible for all expenses for this election since they are the only two issues on the May ballot.

Board Member Parrott motioned to certify the Jerome Township Zoning Referendum to the May 4th, 2021 ballot, based on the approval of ballot language from the Secretary of State. Board Member Pokorski seconds the motion.

- The motion was passed unanimously.

Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Parrott and seconded by Board Member Cook.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Steele closed the Meeting at 3:19pm.

Attest:  Chairman: 

Michelle Forrider, Election Specialist

William Steele, Chairman