

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS

* * * * *

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022

* * * * *

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

LISA DEELEY, CHAIRWOMAN
SETH BLUESTEIN, COMMISSIONER
OMAR SABIR, COMMISSIONER

HELD AT:

11311 ROOSEVELT BOULEVARD
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19154

REPORTED BY: NICOLE NAGLE

STREHLOW & ASSOCIATES
COURT REPORTERS - VIDEOGRAPHERS
54 FRIENDS LANE, SUITE 116
NEWTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18940
WWW.STREHLOWCOURTREPORTING.COM
(215) 504-4622 FAX (215) 504-7155

1 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Good morning. I
2 call the May 18, 2022, meeting of the
3 Philadelphia City Commissioners to order.

4 First I will preserve the order and
5 decorum of these meetings. Everyone in
6 attendance should be on notice that shouting
7 out or interrupting the proceedings will not
8 be tolerated. Those who violate this will be
9 asked to leave.

10 The Sunshine Act permits anyone
11 attending a public meeting to object to a
12 perceived violation at anytime during the
13 meeting. If you choose to do so, please
14 succinctly state your objection. Objecting is
15 not an opportunity for speechmaking.

16 We will now move to public comment.
17 Commenters shall state where they live or if
18 they are not a resident of Philadelphia that
19 they are a Philadelphia taxpayer. Public
20 comment is not an opportunity for dialogue or
21 Q&A. It is public comment, a chance for you
22 to tell us what you think. Each speaker shall
23 have two minutes. However, I may extend this
24 time at my discretion. All public comments

1 must be relevant or germane to Board business.

2 Finally, it is my responsibility to
3 preserve the orderer and decorum of the
4 meetings. As such profane, slanderous,
5 discriminatory, or personal attacks will not
6 be tolerated.

7 Anyone wishing to offer public comment
8 or put anything on the record about
9 yesterday's election, please step forward.

10 Please state your name for the record.

11 MR. GARELLA: Good morning. My name is
12 Rich Garella from Protect Our Vote Philly.

13 I have a couple of topics I want to
14 mention. One is you have a -- are you saying
15 that I should only comment on --

16 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: -- yesterday's
17 election. No you can go.

18 MR. GARELLA: Okay. So one of them is
19 about the purchase of an electronic poll book
20 system and the second one is about Voting
21 Rights Act, Section 203.

22 On the electronic poll book approval,
23 which I guess you plan to do today, we have a
24 couple of very serious concerns. One of them

1 is we notice that the cost of these poll books
2 is now \$6.6 million. The former poll book
3 system, which was rejected only three years
4 ago from No. Inc was 2.6 million.

5 That's an increase of 150 percent from
6 what I can tell. That's concerning. It seems
7 to be out of line with what other
8 jurisdictions are paying but we have to do
9 more research having had only 24 hours to look
10 at this.

11 Secondly, we see that the procurement
12 was done under the same opaque at best value
13 procurement process the express vote cells
14 were done under three years ago.

15 The public has never had any input
16 until I guess today on this. And, once again,
17 we see this a procurement that where we can't
18 see how it was arrived at, what the other bids
19 were and so forth.

20 That's disturbing because \$6.6 million
21 is a lot money.

22 Maybe the biggest one is you may have
23 read and seen in the news yesterday in Berks
24 County. I believe these very same poll books

1 that you plan to approve today failed in
2 spectacular fashion.

3 Secondly, I would like to say that the
4 Voting Rights Act Section 203 it's really on
5 you folks that voters protected by that Act,
6 mainly Chinese-speaking
7 limited-English-proficiency voters could not
8 verify their ballots in the way that other
9 voters could.

10 And could not as far as we could tell,
11 submit write-in votes at all because there was
12 only an English language keyboard --

13 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Two minutes. Time.

14 MR. GARELLA: -- that's not what the
15 Voting Rights Act guarantees and it's on you
16 --

17 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank you. We will
18 now move to Commissioner Bluestein for
19 e-mailed public comment.

20 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: There were no
21 e-mailed public comments as of 9:45 a.m. this
22 morning.

23 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: We will now move to
24 old business and I will call on Garrett Dietz

1 to read the report from the executive
2 director.

3 MR. DIETZ: Good morning,
4 Commissioners.

5 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Good morning,
6 Garrett.

7 MR. DIETZ: Yesterday's election was
8 generally smooth and ran as expected. We had
9 election board worker shortages in some areas
10 in parts of town due to late COVID callouts,
11 but were able to send standby poll workers,
12 staff or temporary workers to fill those
13 positions.

14 There were no major systemic issues.
15 We scanned 46,710 mail-in ballots by 4:30 p.m.
16 on Election day. We will continue to scan
17 ballots that arrive after May 10th as the poll
18 books are scanned and that's it for me.

19 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank you. We will
20 now proceed to new business. I have a motion.

21 Since I was elected, I have been an
22 advocate for moving Philadelphia elections
23 into the 21st century by switching to
24 electronic poll books. The previous Board of

1 City Commissioners approved the purchase of
2 electronic poll books in 2019 to be
3 implemented with the new voting system.

4 Unfortunately, there were issues with
5 the pilot election and the decision was made
6 to cancel the implementation and ultimately
7 the contract was terminated.

8 This setback was further exacerbated by
9 the pandemic and the resulting budget crush.
10 This set back the reissuing of an RFP until
11 earlier this year.

12 As you are aware, the City has strict
13 procurement rules including confidentiality
14 requirements, which we respect. This election
15 committee reviewed the responses, issued their
16 recommendations to the procurement department,
17 and we received the procurements proposed
18 intent to award earlier this week.

19 This proposed intent to award was
20 attached to the agenda for today's meeting and
21 available at the public comment table.

22 While this is a very busy time because
23 of how long it takes to get these projects
24 completed, we cannot wait any longer to have

1 this vote.

2 I would like to have these in place for
3 the 2022 general election and we will have
4 additional training this summer, like we did
5 in 2019, but even though this is an aggressive
6 timeline, we will put these poll books through
7 their paces like we did in 2019 to ensure that
8 they are ready to go.

9 Electronic poll books will be truly
10 transformative to how Philadelphians vote and
11 really allow us to handle the rapid transition
12 we have seen with no excuse mail-in ballots.

13 I am sure you have all noticed that the
14 scanners behind me are not running. Right now
15 at our other office a small army of staff are
16 assembled to barcode the paper poll books so
17 that we can clear the ballots that arrived
18 after last Tuesday.

19 This is part of our process to ensure
20 the accuracy of the vote and it delays results
21 by a couple of days.

22 With electronic poll books, the
23 election day vote history will be
24 automatically uploaded at the end of the night

1 allowing us to scan all the ballots much
2 faster.

3 Also to better clarify the cost, the
4 \$6.6 million in a proposed intent to aboard
5 represents the total cost over the life of the
6 contract, which is the initial cost plus the
7 annual maintenance over five years.

8 This is comparable to the 5.3 million
9 for equivalent to service under our previous
10 electronic poll book contract and was the
11 lowest bid to this RFP.

12 Therefore, I motion that under
13 authority granted to the Board of Elections
14 under Article Three, Section 302 of the
15 Pennsylvania Election Code, the Board of
16 Elections approve election system and software
17 electronic poll books for use in Philadelphia
18 elections.

19 And we therefore approve of the City of
20 Philadelphia contracting with Election System
21 and Software for the purchase of poll books
22 with the goal that the new electronic poll
23 book system shall be in use throughout
24 Philadelphia for the 2022 General Election on

1 November 8, 2022, all subject to the
2 negotiation and acceptable terms and
3 conditions and the conformance of a contract
4 by the procurement department.

5 Do I have a second.

6 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: Second.

7 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Commissioner
8 Bluestein, please call the roll.

9 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: Commissioner
10 Deeley?

11 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I vote aye.
13 Commissioner Sabir?

14 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Madam Chair,
15 Commissioner Bluestein, if I may, I just
16 wanted to commend the Board for working hard
17 to get this done.

18 When I took my oath of office, I wanted
19 to make the City Commissioners more
20 accessible, more transparent, and more
21 modernized, and I think by the purchase of
22 these E-poll books will do that.

23 But the training, I definitely want to
24 increase our training for communities,

1 primarily we're talking about African American
2 communities and a large population of
3 Philadelphia residents that are on the poverty
4 line, that we do a robust training and
5 outreach with these electronic poll books.

6 My vote is yes for the bill. But we
7 definitely have to get increased training and
8 robust crash outreach for this project.

9 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank you,
10 Commissioner. The motion to approve ES&S
11 electronic poll books for use and approve
12 contracts with ES&S for purchase passed
13 unanimously.

14 Commissioner Bluestein, do you have any
15 items to be added to today's agenda?

16 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I have none.

17 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Commissioner Sabir,
18 do you have any items to be added to today's
19 agenda?

20 COMMISSIONER SABIR: No, I do not.

21 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank you,
22 everyone. With no items remaining on the
23 agenda, this meeting is adjourned to the call
24 of the chair.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

Have a beautiful day.

* * * * *

(Whereupon the meeting concluded at 11:11 a.m.)

* * * * *

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence noted are contained fully and accurately in the stenographic notes taken by me upon the foregoing matter, and that this is a correct transcript of the same.

Court Reporter-Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means, unless under the direct control and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.)

<u>WORD</u> <u>INDEX</u>					
< \$ >	Act 2:10 3:21 5:4, 5, 15	bid 9:11	Commenters 2:17	17, 23 6:5, 19 10:7, 10, 11 11:9, 17, 21	Finally 3:2
\$6.6 4:2, 20 9:4	added 11:15, 18	bids 4:18	comments 2:24 5:21	definitely 10:23 11:7	First 2:4
< 1 >	additional 8:4	biggest 4:22	COMMISSION ER 1:8, 9 5:18, 20 10:6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 11:10, 14, 16, 17, 20	delays 8:20	five 9:7
10th 6:17	adjourned 11:23	bill 11:6	ER 1:8, 9	department 7:16 10:4	folks 5:5
11:11 12:4	advocate 6:22	BLUESTEIN 1:8 5:18, 20 10:6, 8, 9, 12, 15 11:14, 16	5:18, 20 10:6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 11:10, 14, 16, 17, 20	dialogue 2:20	foregoing 13:6, 15
11311 1:9	African 11:1	Board 3:1	COMMISSION ER 1:2, 7 2:3 6:4 7:1 10:19	Dietz 5:24	former 4:2
116 1:22	agenda 7:20	book 3:19, 22 4:2 9:10, 23	ER 1:2, 7	direct 13:17	forth 4:19
150 4:5	aggressive 8:5	books 4:1, 24 6:18, 24 7:2 8:6, 9, 16, 22 9:17, 21 10:22 11:5, 11	2:3 6:4 7:1 10:19	discretion 6:2	forward 3:9
18 1:4 2:2	ago 4:4, 14	BOULEVARD 1:9	committee 7:15	discriminatory 3:5	FRIENDS 1:22
18940 1:22	allow 8:11	budget 7:9	communities 10:24 11:2	due 6:10	fully 13:5
19154 1:13	allowing 9:1	business 3:1 5:24 6:20	comparable 9:8	< E >	further 7:8
< 2 >	American 11:1	busy 7:22	completed 7:24	earlier 7:11, 18	< G >
2.6 4:4	and/or 13:18	< C >	concerning 4:6	elected 6:21	GARELLA 3:11, 12, 18 5:14
2019 7:2 8:5, 7	annual 9:7	call 2:2 5:24 10:8 11:23	concerns 3:24	election 3:9, 17 6:7, 9, 16 7:5, 14 8:3, 23 9:15, 16, 20, 24	Garrett 5:24 6:6
2022 1:4 2:2 8:3 9:24 10:1	anytime 2:12	callouts 6:10	concluded 12:4	elections 6:22 9:13, 16, 18	general 8:3 9:24
203 3:21 5:4	apply 13:16	cancel 7:6	conditions 10:3	electronic 3:19, 22 6:24 7:2 8:9, 22 9:10, 17, 22 11:5, 11	generally 6:8
215 1:23	approval 3:22	cells 4:13	confidentiality 7:13	English 5:12	germane 3:1
21st 6:23	approve 5:1 9:16, 19 11:10, 11	century 6:23	conformance 10:3	ensure 8:7, 19	go 3:17 8:8
24 4:9	approved 7:1	certification 13:15	contained 13:5	E-poll 10:22	goal 9:22
< 3 >	areas 6:9	certify 13:4	continue 6:16	equivalent 9:9	Good 2:1 3:11 6:3, 5
302 9:14	army 8:15	certifying 13:18	contract 7:7 9:6, 10 10:3	ES&S 11:10, 12	granted 9:13
< 4 >	arrive 6:17	Chair 10:14 11:24	contracting 9:20	evidence 13:5	guarantees 5:15
4:30 6:15	arrived 4:18 8:17	CHAIRWOMAN 1:8 2:1 3:16 5:13, 17, 23 6:5, 19 10:7, 11 11:9, 17, 21	contracts 11:12	exacerbated 7:8	guess 3:23 4:16
46,710 6:15	Article 9:14	chance 2:21	control 13:17	excuse 8:12	< H >
< 5 >	asked 2:9	Chinese-speaking 5:6	correct 13:7	executive 6:1	handle 8:11
5.3 9:8	assembled 8:16	choose 2:13	cost 4:1 9:3, 5, 6	expected 6:8	hard 10:16
504-4622 1:23	ASSOCIATES 1:21	City 2:3 7:1, 12 9:19 10:19	COURT 1:21 13:13	express 4:13	HELD 1:9
504-7155 1:23	attached 7:20	clarify 9:3	COVID 6:10	extend 2:23	history 8:23
54 1:22	attacks 3:5	clear 8:17	crash 11:8	< I >	hours 4:9
< 8 >	attendance 2:6	commend 10:16	crush 7:9	implementation 7:6	implemented 7:3
8 10:1	attending 2:11	comment 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21	< D >	including 7:13	implemented 7:3
< 9 >	authority 9:13	commentary 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21	day 6:16 8:23 12:1	increase 4:5 10:24	initial 9:6
9:45 5:21	automatically 8:24	commentary 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21	days 8:21	increased 11:7	input 4:15
< A >	available 7:21	commentary 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21	decision 7:5	initial 9:6	intent 7:18, 19 9:4
a.m 5:21 12:4	award 7:18, 19	commentary 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21	decorum 2:5 3:3	input 4:15	interrupting 2:7
able 6:11	aware 7:12	commentary 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21	DEELEY 1:8 2:1 3:16 5:13,	issued 7:15	issues 6:14 7:4
aboard 9:4	Aye 10:11, 12	commentary 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21		issued 7:15	
acceptable 10:2	< B >	commentary 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21		issues 6:14 7:4	
accessible 10:20	back 7:10	commentary 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21			
accuracy 8:20	ballots 5:8 6:15, 17 8:12, 17 9:1	commentary 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21			
accurately 13:5	barcode 8:16	commentary 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21			
	beautiful 12:1	commentary 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21			
	believe 4:24	commentary 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21			
	Berks 4:23	commentary 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21			
	best 4:12	commentary 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21			
	better 9:3	commentary 2:16, 20, 21 3:7, 15 5:19 7:21			

items 11:15, 18, 22	moving 6:22	PHILADELPH IA 1:13 2:3, 18, 19 6:22 9:17, 20, 24 11:3	< R >	scanned 6:15, 18	talking 11:1
< J >	< N >		ran 6:8	scanners 8:14	taxpayer 2:19
jurisdictions 4:8	NAGLE 1:13		rapid 8:11	second 3:20 10:5, 6	tell 2:22 4:6 5:10
< K >	name 3:10, 11	Philadelphians 8:10	read 4:23 6:1	Secondly 4:11 5:3	temporary 6:12
keyboard 5:12	negotiation 10:2	Philly 3:12	ready 8:8	Section 3:21 5:4 9:14	terminated 7:7
< L >	never 4:15	pilot 7:5	really 5:4 8:11	see 4:11, 17, 18	terms 10:2
LANE 1:22	new 6:20 7:3 9:22	place 8:2	received 7:17	seen 4:23 8:12	Thank 5:17 6:19 11:9, 21
language 5:12	news 4:23	plan 3:23 5:1	recommendatio ns 7:16	send 6:11	think 2:22 10:21
large 11:2	NEWTOWN 1:22	please 2:13 3:9, 10 10:8	record 3:8, 10	serious 3:24	three 4:3, 14 9:14
late 6:10	NICOLE 1:13	poll 3:19, 22 4:1, 2, 24 6:11, 17, 24 7:2 8:6, 9, 16, 22 9:10, 17, 21, 22 11:5, 11	reissuing 7:10	service 9:9	time 2:24 5:13 7:22
leave 2:9	night 8:24	plus 9:6	rejected 4:3	set 7:10	timeline 8:6
life 9:5	noted 13:5	poll 3:19, 22 4:1, 2, 24 6:11, 17, 24 7:2 8:6, 9, 16, 22 9:10, 17, 21, 22 11:5, 11	relevant 3:1	setback 7:8	today 3:23 4:16 5:1
limited-English- proficiency 5:7	notes 13:6	population 11:2	remaining 11:22	SETH 1:8	today's 7:20 11:15, 18
line 4:7 11:4	notice 2:6 4:1	positions 6:13	report 6:1	shortages 6:9	tolerated 2:8 3:6
LISA 1:8	noticed 8:13	poverty 11:3	REPORTED 1:13	shouting 2:6	topics 3:13
live 2:17	November 10:1	PRESENT 1:7	reporter 13:18	slandorous 3:4	total 9:5
long 7:23	< O >	preserve 2:4 3:3	Reporter- Notary 13:13	small 8:15	town 6:10
longer 7:24	oath 10:18	previous 6:24 9:9	REPORTERS 1:21	smooth 6:8	training 8:4 10:23, 24 11:4, 7
look 4:9	object 2:11	primarily 11:1	represents 9:5	software 9:16, 21	transcript 13:7, 16
lot 4:21	Objecting 2:14	proceed 6:20	reproduction 13:16	speaker 2:22	transformative 8:10
lowest 9:11	objection 2:14	proceedings 2:7 13:4	requirements 7:14	spectacular 5:2	transition 8:11
< M >	offer 3:7	process 4:13 8:19	research 4:9	speechmaking 2:15	transparent 10:20
Madam 10:14	office 8:15 10:18	procurement 4:11, 13, 17 7:13, 16 10:4	resident 2:18	staff 6:12 8:15	truly 8:9
mail-in 6:15 8:12	Okay 3:18	procurements 7:17	residents 11:3	standby 6:11	Tuesday 8:18
maintenance 9:7	old 5:24	project 11:8	respect 7:14	state 2:14, 17 3:10	two 2:23 5:13
major 6:14	OMAR 1:9	projects 7:23	responses 7:15	stenographic 13:6	< U >
matter 13:7	once 4:16	proposed 7:17, 19 9:4	responsibility 3:2	step 3:9	ultimately 7:6
means 13:17	opaque 4:12	Protect 3:12	resulting 7:9	STREHLOW 1:21	unanimously 11:13
MEETING 1:2 2:2, 11, 13 7:20 11:23 12:4	opportunity 2:15, 20	protected 5:5	results 8:20	subject 10:1	Unfortunately 7:4
meetings 2:5 3:4	order 2:3, 4	public 2:11, 16, 19, 21, 24 3:7 4:15 5:19, 21 7:21 13:13	reviewed 7:15	submit 5:11	uploaded 8:24
mention 3:14	orderer 3:3	purchase 3:19 7:1 9:21 10:21 11:12	RFP 7:10 9:11	succinctly 2:14	use 9:17, 23 11:11
million 4:2, 4, 20 9:4, 8	outreach 11:5, 8	put 3:8 8:6	Rich 3:12	SUITE 1:22	< V >
minutes 2:23 5:13	< P >	< Q >	Right 8:14	summer 8:4	value 4:12
modernized 10:21	p.m 6:15	Q&A 2:21	Rights 3:21 5:4, 15	Sunshine 2:10	verify 5:8
money 4:21	PA 1:13		robust 11:4, 8	supervision 13:18	VIDEOGRAPH
morning 2:1 3:11 5:22 6:3, 5	paces 8:7		roll 10:8	sure 8:13	ERS 1:21
motion 6:20 9:12 11:10	pandemic 7:9		ROOSEVELT 1:9	switching 6:23	violate 2:8
move 2:16 5:18, 23	paper 8:16		rules 7:13	system 3:20 4:3 7:3 9:16, 20, 23	violation 2:12
	part 8:19		running 8:14	systemic 6:14	Vote 3:12 4:13 8:1, 10,
	parts 6:10		< S >	< T >	
	passed 11:12		SABIR 1:9 10:13, 14 11:17, 20	table 7:21	
	paying 4:8		saying 3:14	taken 13:6	
	PENNSYLVAN IA 1:22 9:15		scan 6:16 9:1	takes 7:23	
	perceived 2:12				
	percent 4:5				
	permits 2:10				
	personal 3:5				

20, 23 10:12
11:6
voters 5:5, 7, 9
votes 5:11
Voting 3:20
5:4, 15 7:3

< W >

wait 7:24
want 3:13
10:23
wanted 10:16,
18

way 5:8

WEDNESDAY

1:4
week 7:18
we're 11:1
wishing 3:7
worker 6:9
workers 6:11,
12
working 10:16
write-in 5:11
WWW.STREH
LOWCOURTR
EPORTING.C
OM 1:23

< Y >

year 7:11
years 4:3, 14
9:7
yesterday 4:23
yesterday's
3:9, 16 6:7