

Mecklenburg Board of Electors

April 13, 2021

Present were Jeanne M. Capello Chair, Robert P. Chadeayne Secretary, Yvonne Alexander, Jason Corwin Registrar, and Jeff Stratford Mecklenburg County Democrat Committee Chair.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Capello at 12:53 PM. Mr. Corwin led us in a brief prayer.

The proposed agenda was agreed to without modification.

The minutes of February 11, 2021 were approved as presented.

Mr. Corwin reviewed the changes to the emergency plan. This plan will be an interim plan and will be revised after we relocate to the new office space. Without objection, Mr. Corwin will submit this plan to the state.

June Primary – Precinct 604 Melissa Hartman has agreed to be Assistant Chief. Randolph Hite will be contacted to serve as an Officer of Election. Precinct 201 Kim Burnett will be the Chief and James Garner will be the Assistant Chief. Ms. Deborah Jones will be permanently assigned to the precinct too. Precinct 103 the Chief and Assistant Chief have resigned. Jason indicated he has a husband/wife team who may be willing to step up into these positions. Also, a third person in the precinct will not be available. Discussion was held regarding the appropriateness of appointing a husband and wife to the leadership positions. Mr. Chadeayne objected on the basis that in addition to the idea that it is inappropriate there is the possibility if one should decide not to continue, you probably lose both and we need to build a strong bench of trained people who can backfill for the loss of a key leader. Ms. Alexander also expressed reservations. Richard Townes, who has temporarily filled Chief positions is willing to be the temporary Chief for the primary. This will allow the board to plan long term staffing for this precinct, which meets Ms. Alexander's concerns.

Mr. Corwin discussed the need to establish a procedure to empty ballots from any voting machine when the vote count reached approximately 4,000. This is primarily for the CAP as we currently don't have any precincts with that many registered voters, with the possible exception being 501, American Legion in South Hill.

Training of precinct level OEs will be conducted the last week of May (24th through 27th) at 6:00 PM. The make-up class will be June 1st and the Chief's training will be June 3rd.

New laws will go into effect May 5, 2021 when the Governor is expected to sign them. This means that we will go into early absentee voting under one set of laws, those currently in effect, and a different set of laws after the Governor's signature places them in effect. While this may cause some confusion, Mr. Corwin believes the impact will be minimal. He is planning to maintain the additional records to verify compliance during each time period.

Redistricting – In a conversation with Commissioner Piper, Mr. Corwin reported that Virginia should be receiving the necessary data to start the process of redistricting on or about August 24, 2021. In the

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opinion of the Commissioner, there should be ample time to get everything done by the November election. This fact will most likely will require a special election in March, 2022.

Office Relocation – Things are still on schedule. We are still targeting the end of June or early July. Aubrey is working on the ramp and finish work. Mr. Corwin will check on the new counter top installation date.

New Chief Manual – Mr. Corwin reported that he is working on creating a new Chief's manual to reflect the new poll book system we will be using. He is currently making new screen shot photos to accompany the narratives describing the system's operation. This will be ready in time for the training dates already discussed.

Mr. Corwin reported that the towns are not happy with the new voting laws and the date change to November for town elections. Also, that candidates for local offices will no longer be able to file campaign finance reports and applications with the Registrar's office. They will be required to go through the state on-line system. Mr. Corwin indicated that he will conduct public training sessions to instruct in the laws and assist candidates with form preparation and general information.

Capstone Project – Mr. Corwin has been in contact with Robert Dahlburg associated with VCU. VCU is working on network security posture in rural communities. They are offering various forms of support to towns and rural counties. Mr. Dahlburg has presented a proposal to VCU to use Mecklenburg County as one of the first localities to support. The proposal has been accepted and we should see a team of graduate students sometime in September to assist us with our network security set-up and associated procedures for ongoing maintenance. This is timely as we should be relocated by then. They will also assist in conducting penetration testing to evaluate vulnerabilities.

The next meeting will be May 19, 2021 at 1:00 PM.

New Poll Books – The board conducted familiarization with the new poll book system.

At 1:40 PM the board voted to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing security aspects of the new poll book system.

At 2:45 PM the board reconvened in public session. Ms. Capello reported that no votes were taken nor was any topic outside of the stated purpose discussed in closed session.

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert P. Chadeayne

Secretary

