

Mecklenburg Board of Electors

July 5, 2022

Present were Jeanne M. Capello Chair, Robert P. Chadeayne Secretary, Yvonne Alexander, and Jason Corwin Registrar. There were three guests: Wally Hudson, Republican Committee Chair, Jeff Stratford Democratic Committee Chair, and Melissa Hartman.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Capello at 2:03 PM. Mr. Corwin led us in a brief prayer.

The proposed agenda was agreed to without modification.

The minutes of the March 8, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

The Cyber Navigator Program Work Group made a presentation via electronic media regarding work being done on behalf of Mecklenburg County to improve the Registrar's computer network security. This is a group of college grad students, from several Virginia universities, majoring in computer science and cyber security, sanctioned by ELECT. The group's task is to assist seventeen election units across the state develop custom network security, firewall protection, and other security protections for in office networks. The presenters were the individuals working with Mr. Corwin specifically on Mecklenburg issues such as monitoring network usage, remote access, and logging and flagging various events. The details of which have and will continue to be discussed in closed sessions. The group is planning site visits in the near future to implement and test certain capabilities.

Mr. Corwin reported on Dominion voting machine firmware update that has been released for our machines. These updates are to fix known software glitches and to tighten various security parameters. Also mentioned was a report that was issued as part of a legal action in Georgia regarding Dominion machines and alleged vulnerabilities. The substance of the report does not apply to Mecklenburg because our machines have been operating on newer and up to date software.

Budget Update – The county has asked that Capital Expense line items be submitted. Mr. Corwin has submitted an addendum seeking additional voting machines, computer tablets for the pollbook application totaling \$22,537. In addition, the Demtech warranty fee has increased to \$7,000 annually. The approved software updates will be available by early August.

Redistricting – The nine Supervisor District boundaries were approved in June by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Corwin has been asked to work with the county to develop voting precincts number and boundaries for each of the nine districts. The new law requires where there are city subdivisions into Wards, a Ward cannot be split across Districts. South Hill has three Wards. Ward 1 is in its own District and Wards 2 and 3 are in a separate District. Each of the Districts were reviewed and discussed. Suggested polling locations and boundary lines were reviewed and discussions held regarding potential relocation of some existing locations, including name changes to be more descriptive and meaningful.

After considerable discussion, a motion was made to support the proposed plan of precincts within each of the nine Supervisory Districts with the caveat that precinct 901 Nelson, (Averett Family Food) be considered for relocation at a later date and that this motion be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors as a recommendation of the Electoral Board. Motion passed.

A motion was made to submit suggested Precinct Names to the Board of Supervisors for the twenty-one (21) proposed precincts and that this motion be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors as a recommendation of the Electoral Board. Motion passed.

Mecklenburg Board of Electors

Upon final approval by the Board of Supervisors, the Registrar will have to begin implementation. Notices will be sent to every voter in the county advising of their polling location, precinct number, and new voter registration cards will be issued.

Annual Training – Dates and locations were discussed.

Preprocessing work group – Mr. Corwin participated in the group and the procedures developed in Mecklenburg were accepted as a generic state standard.

Officers of Election – for next year we will review staffing and OE assignments. Discussed a training session next spring/summer to acquaint people with the new district alignment. Discussed creating new OE forms and updated data needs i.e., emergency contact information, etc.

Law updates regarding ballot styles. We are going to be required to have as a minimum one ballot style per precinct. There could be as many as 28 to 30 different styles for the next election. It was suggested that we explore ballots on demand for the future.

School Board vacancy – School Board District 6 position is vacant and will most likely be filled with a special election.

Sunday Voting – Melissa Hartman addressed the board regarding her support for adding a Sunday voting opportunity during the forty-five days early in-person voting period leading up to election day. It is her contention that there is a need and desire within the county to have such an opportunity.

After some discussion, Ms. Alexander motioned that the county tries offering voting on the first Sunday of October between the hours of 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM on a trial basis with no guarantee or expectation that it will be permanent. Ms. Alexander and Ms. Capello voted Yes; Mr. Chadeayne voted No the motion passed.

By common consent, due to the hour, the board agreed to postpone until the next meeting going into closed session for personnel evaluations.

The next meeting will be August 9, 2022 at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert P. Chadeayne

Secretary