

Mecklenburg County Electoral Board

October 20, 2020

Approved Minutes

Present were Jeanne M. Capello Chair, Robert P. Chadeayne Secretary, Yvonne Alexander, and Jason Corwin Registrar. Guests: Jeffery Stratford.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Capello at 1:02 PM. Mr. Corwin led us in a brief prayer.

No formal agenda was proposed, without objection.

The minutes of September 8, 2020 were approved as presented.

Mr. Corwin reported that he had met with the County Administrator regarding the need for temporary help to staff the CAP during the early absentee voting period. Approval was granted. James Garner and Chris Williams will be working in the CAP through election day. In addition to processing in person absentee voters, they will assist in packing up the voting machines and supplies to be distributed to the precincts.

Mr. Corwin submitted an absentee ballot chain of custody form for approval by the board. This form will be used when ballots, from the drop boxes at precinct locations, are collected for transport to the registrar's office. The serial numbers of the seals will be recorded when removed and or reapplied by EB members. The custody form will be signed by both the Precinct Chief and EB Member indicating the number of ballots and the date and time of custody transfer. The same form will be used to record the transfer from the EB member to the Registrar at the office. Motion to approve the form was passed.

Mr. Corwin reported that MS. Jean Spain and Connie Clark advised that they were unable to work November 3rd. Richard Townes and Peggy Fields have been contacted to be acting Precinct Chiefs for precinct 203 and 701.

Our emergency request to move precinct 802 from Gator's store to the Bluestone Middle School, 250 Middle School Road Skipwith, was approved by the School Board. The office staff is preparing a special mailing to all voters assigned to that precinct to inform them of the change. This is a temporary relocation, however, immediately after the election a formal request to permanently relocate the precinct to the Middle School will be made to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Corwin suggested that we suspend the Page Program for the November election because students have not been available due to the virus and the impact on student and class schedules. It was also reported that a number of students and teachers have been exposed to the virus at Parkview. The board concurred that under the circumstances of the pandemic it was not essential to conduct the program.

A general discussion was held regarding the management of the election incorporating social distancing. Topics such as people movement within the precincts, gating access and egress, and other safety issues are of concern to the board. The voter response to in person early voting has been significant. Election day volume at the precincts will be reduced from traditional experience. The board is confident that we are as prepared as possible.

Sherriff, Bobby Hawkins, has said that he plans to have increased patrol presence of his officers around precinct polling locations throughout election day. He has been in contact with town Police Departments who have also committed to an increased presence. As of the latest reports from the fusion center, there are no alerts or known activities in or around Mecklenburg County that they are monitoring. Sherriff Hawkins believes we will have an unremarkable day.

Training elements for the Precinct Chiefs will be a little more involved for this election. Mr. Corwin is planning to provide a supplementary list of those voters who requested absentee ballots but subsequently returned the ballot unused. The pollbook will still show the voter as AB even though they are eligible to vote in person at the poll. Hopefully, the supplemental list will reduce frustration and confusion. There will also be in depth discussion of those things that are different for this election. It is anticipated that the training session will be a minimum of one and a half hours in duration.

A discussion was held regarding the use of Cares Act COVID-19 funds to incentivize our Officers of Election for their dedication. A motion was made to increase Officer of Election compensation by \$100 per person as a one-time expression of appreciation. It is the boards desire to keep this decision confidential until after the election so as not to unduly influence the poll workers and to make this truly an expression of appreciation. Motion was seconded and passed by roll call vote. Ms. Alexander, Yes; Mr. Chadeayne, Yes; Ms. Capello, Yes.

As there is no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 PM.

The next meeting will be on October 13, 2020 at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert P. Chadeayne

Secretary