

Mecklenburg County Electoral Board

February 12, 2019

Minutes

Present were Jeanne M. Capello Chair, Robert P. Chadeayne Secretary, Yvonne Alexander Vice Chair, Jason Corwin Registrar, and Michael Denton Precinct 103 Chief

The meeting was called to order by Jeanne M. Capello at 12:58 PM EST. Mr. Corwin led us in a brief prayer.

A motion to amend the proposed agenda to add Election of Officers to follow approval of minutes and to allow fifteen minutes for Mr. Denton to provide input on his experience as a Chief in the November 6, 2018 election. Motion passed.

The minutes of January 22, 2019 were approved as presented.

Mr. Denton began by answering a question about adequacy of the training he received. His reply is that he feels training is thorough and about the right level. The training atmosphere is one that is encouraging of questions being asked and a willingness to address any subject raised. He would not like to see less emphasis in preparing Chiefs or workers, or openness to answering questions.

He does see an issue with the voter registration process at DMV and feels powerless to help voters caught up in things that have fallen through the cracks. Mr. Corwin indicated that he has been appointed to a committee to work with DMV to improve the process.

From Mr. Denton's point of view, he has a well-trained staff and sufficient numbers to meet the needs of the precinct. A question was asked about the Chief's Manual. His response was that the manual is a critical link for himself as well as the people he has working in the precinct. He uses it as a training tool and a reference. He also indicated that he attempts to cross train all of his people. He does see a developing problem however; all of the current poll workers are getting older and have been working polls for many years. He doesn't see a new crop of younger workers on the horizon.

Mr. Denton also complemented the board's efforts to improve the process of conducting an election and how it has been simplified over the last few years. The board shared with Mr. Denton the proposed changes being discussed whereby the Chiefs will be required to turn in their precinct material on election night and remain until their SOR reports have been verified as complete. He doesn't have any issue with the change. In fact, he thinks that the chiefs should understand why a certain report is required or why certain information is needed. It would help in overall improvement in precinct performance and reduce needless mistakes.

To follow-up it was suggested that the board might conduct a mock canvass meeting as part of training to help workers understand what happens with the information included in the various envelopes after it leaves the precinct. Mr. Corwin briefed the changes to the manuals that are being prepared. The idea of setting up a Page program to involve high school students in the election process was brought up. This might be possible as part of a civics curriculum.

Overall both Mr. Denton and the board were convinced that the discussion was productive and enlightening. The board thanked Mr. Denton for his participation and input to improving our election process.

Election of Officers of the board. A motion was made to nominate Jeanne M. Capello as chair, Yvonne Alexander as Vice Chair, And Robert P. Chadeayne as Secretary. Motion seconded and passed without debate.

Election Night Drop Off: Mr. Corwin reported that he has had discussion with board members and is developing a consensus. A work sheet will be prepared to facilitate the check-in process that we can review at the next meeting. He is anticipating that we should have the process approved by the May meeting.

Board of Supervisors request for relocation: This issue has been referred to a sub-committee for review and recommendation. Relocation costs are not in the current budget at this time. When Mr. Corwin finds out when the Committee will meet, he will advise the board and requests that board members plan on attending to answer questions and provide support. A general discussion was held reinforcing the expected changes in absentee voting requirements and the impact upon Mecklenburg County.

Security Plan: Mr. Corwin suggested that we table action on the plan until the March meeting.

NVRA Cancellations: Notifications have been made to all appropriate parties. A copy of the list has been provided for board member information.

Budget Planning: Mr. Corwin explained the proposed changes and line item adjustments. Mr. Corwin is proposing a pay increase for the Assistant Registrar of 3%. After discussion a motion was made to approve the budget. Motion passed.

After review of the Five-year plan and the need for future purchases of new poll book computers and voting machine replacements it was recommended that our five-year plan be approved and made part of our budget proposal that was just approved. Motion was made to approve the five-year plan with the addition of a financial impact statement. Motion passed.

Poll Workers: Mr. Corwin provided a list of proposed poll workers and their status to staff for a June primary. It was suggested that the final list be deferred to the March meeting when the assignments are solidified. Without objection.

CAP SOR form: The updated form was approved without comment.

The next meeting will be March 12, 2019 at 1:00 PM EST.

As there is no further business before the board a motion to adjourn was passed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:18 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert P. Chadeayne

Secretary