

Mecklenburg County Electoral Board

March 12, 2019

Minutes

Present were Jeanne M. Capello Chair, Robert P. Chadeayne Secretary, Yvonne Alexander Vice Chair, Jason Corwin Registrar, and Virginia Baskerville Precinct 501.

The meeting was called to order by Jeanne M. Capello at 1:03 PM. Mr. Corwin led us in a brief prayer.

A motion to adopt the proposed agenda. Motion passed.

Ms. Capello recognized our guest, Virginia Baskerville 320 E. Ferrell St South Hill, VA who is a poll worker in precinct 501.

The minutes of February 12, 2019 were approved as presented.

Report of the VA Electoral Board Association meeting at The Homestead. Ms. Capello reported that she did not attend. Ms. Alexander reported that she attended and she found the conference informative and well presented. A key topic was cyber security and the need to be vigilant, and work closely with our local law enforcement. The threat is anticipated to increase and be with us into the future. She also completed the Electoral Board Training.

Election Bills – Mr. Corwin reported on the following legislative bills. HB 1620 & SB 1445 State Board of Elections reorganization appears to be on track for passage. HB 1790 Absentee Voting, the outcome is currently in doubt of passage. HB 2790 & SB 1026 No Excuse Absentee Voting has passed both houses and is ready to be signed.

Mr. Corwin reported that he went to Warren County, NC to discuss methods of operation with the introduction of no excuse early voting. Mr. Corwin was able to identify comparable NC precincts to Mecklenburg County precincts and obtained NC data to measure effect of no excuse voting changes. He indicated that he will use the data he compiled to share with the County Supervisors to justify our request for relocation to the former library.

The board discussed impact of early and no excuse voting on voter turn-out and voting pattern changes in Mecklenburg County. Included in the discussion was the need to educate voters regarding application for annual absentee voting. Also, how best to reach out to all eligible voters in the county to stimulate voter turnout.

Security Plan, Mr. Corwin provided an updated Security Plan for our review. Motion to approve the updated Security Plan. Motion Passed.

Election Night Drop Off Plan, Mr. Corwin presented his proposed worksheet to be used for check in. After some discussion there was consensus the form should be preprinted with the precinct number and Chief's name. Also, the terminology for the machine opening tape should be standardized to opening tape and not the zero tape. When the SOR's in envelope 2 are checked the SOR's are placed back into envelope 2 along with the check-off sheet and envelope 2 is resealed.

Issues for Local Elections:

Board of Supervisors, Glenn Barbour Has a home in NC and rents a home in South Hill. He has used the South Hill address as his domicile for over two years and he lives there much of the time. Conclusion is that he is legally registered in South Hill, there is no violation of law, and has met all of the qualifications. If someone wants to challenge, they will have to provide evidence and file a complaint with the Commonwealth's Attorney.

School Board, Dale Sturdefin has two houses, one inside the district he represents and one outside the district. Someone is questioning whether he is eligible to continue in his position on the school board. He is currently registered in the district he represents.

Manual Updates, Mr. Corwin reported that the Chief and Assistant Chief manual, Voting Machine Officer manual, and Pollbook Officer manual have been updated and he has provided links to these documents so that we can proof read and review the material. Each manual is different. In addition, all of the pictures in the manuals are new with better definition and quality.

June Primary, Mr. Corwin reported that of this date there will only be a Republican primary. Based upon this information, he has prepared the ballot order and is ready to place the order. Training dates have been set for poll workers and chiefs.

Mr. Corwin reviewed the scale drawings he prepared in anticipation of relocation to the library building. He and Ms. Terry considered placement for electrical outlets and computer outlets for the entire first floor space. The allocation of space for various functions was reviewed.

Ms. Capello raised questions regarding our idea of establishing a Page Program. For example, how does an individual apply to be a Page? Is sponsorship required? Discussion ensued with a general consensus that Mecklenburg County should consider establishing a Page Program to engage the youth of the county and encourage civic involvement. Discussion continued regarding the process of establishing such a program, identifying stakeholders, scope of the program etc. Mr. Corwin agreed to reach out to other registrars to sample existing programs to possibly use them as framework for a future Mecklenburg County Program.

The issue of finding a replacement precinct location for 802, Gator's Store, was discussed. There is general agreement that we should raise the priority of relocating the precinct as soon as possible. The board suggests that we contact both the Pastor of the New Light Baptist Church and Wayne Carter to investigate the possibility of the county building a handicap access ramp in lieu of rent to the church with a commitment by the church of several years use as a precinct location. Mr. Corwin advised that precinct boundaries and locations are frozen until after the 2020 Presidential election, however he agreed to look at this and informally discuss the issue with the County Administrator.

Ms. Alexander raised a question about identification for board members to identify us to the precinct workers as we travel to our assigned precincts.

Ms. Baskerville was asked if she had any comments, she would like to make about her experience working the November, 2018 election. She expressed her pleasure of being able to observe our meeting and is impressed with the boards proactive approach of making things better and simpler.

The next meeting will be April 9, 2019 at 1:00 PM EDST. There will be no May meeting, we will hold meetings associated with the Primary June 11, 2019. A meeting will be scheduled for July 9, 2019.

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert P. Chadeayne

Secretary