

Mecklenburg County Electoral Board

August 11, 2020

Un-approved Minutes

Present were Jeanne M. Capello Chair, Robert P. Chadeayne Secretary, Yvonne Alexander, and Jason Corwin Registrar. Guests: Bobby Hawkins Sheriff, Joyce Lindenmuth, Annette Tucker, R. Wallace Hudson

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Capello at 1:00 PM. Mr. Corwin led us in a brief prayer.

The proposed agenda was agreed to without modification.

The minutes of June 2, 2020 were approved as presented.

Ms. Capello welcomed sheriff Hawkins to the meeting and thanked him for his willingness to discuss election security with the board. Sheriff Hawkins briefed the board on his election day security plan and shared intelligence being discussed on a regional and state level regarding protests and other activity. At the moment information from the fusion center and Homeland Security doesn't indicate any unusual incidents which might be of concern for Mecklenburg County. The board in turn shared knowledge of certain precincts and activity where the Sheriff's department may be of assistance. A general request was made of the Sheriff regarding election day by encouraging deputies to vote in uniform, using their marked vehicles to periodically stop by each of our precincts, and generally have an increased visibility to the community throughout the day. We also discussed lines of communication and protocols for election day. Sheriff Hawkins left the meeting at 1:30 PM.

Mr. Corwin reported that he sent a letter to the party chairs indicating that he is available to meet with them regarding any questions pertaining to the upcoming election.

Ballot order for the November election. Mr. Corwin reviewed the proposed order by precinct and the CAP. Motion was made to approve the proposed ballot order. Motion passed.

Mr. Corwin reported that we are once again using ballot scout for managing absentee ballot requests. This is the same system we have used since 2016. He has added it to the website so that voters can track their own ballot and where it is in the system. To date 387 absentee ballot requests have been received. A general discussion of the absentee balloting process ensued.

Mr. Corwin discussed the letters he will send out to the Officers of Election and precinct locations confirming the election date, precinct access dates and training dates for poll workers. The three training options were reviewed and discussed of which option A was selected, (Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6PM. There will be no 10 AM session due to office coverage requirements.). Multiple sessions will be held due to social distancing requirements.

Online training. New training videos have been completed and are ready to go online. The videos will also be placed on a laptop to be used for in-person training. The online videos can be downloaded by our people for their convenience. There are no passwords or proprietary information in the videos to be concerned with. It is Mr. Corwin's intention that these training videos will be kept current going forward. For the up-coming training sessions the power point presentation slides will be updated to reflect all changes. The county's voter

registration Facebook page has been blocked by Facebook because they took issue with voter registration information. Mr. Corwin has revamped and re-registered under a different name our Facebook page. So far Facebook has not taken any further action. Our followers have not all caught up with the change, but the good news is that our follower count is increasing and we are getting word out to people about the change.

Page Program. Mr. Corwin is waiting to get back into the schools when they reopen. Some estimates are that there will be about 25% of students in a classroom at a time which presents a problem of informing students about the page opportunity. We have a list from last year of advancing seniors and we can use that also for recruiting. If we get student interest in the program a separate training session will be setup for the students.

Personal Protective Equipment. Mr. Corwin reported that both the county and the state received funding for PPE. As a result, the registrar's office has accumulated a large supply of this equipment that will carry us through the election. We anticipate that the costs will be born by the county and not from our budget.

Proposed new pollbook equipment. A general discussion was held regarding the system Mr. Corwin is interested in and the webinar that was conducted describing the system capabilities. The system has not completed the certification process as yet. However, the system is very promising. The design is well thought out and flexible for the user community, and has designed scalability of terminal and printer hardware. There are other vendors with similar product in the market and at different stages of certification which will be evaluated.

An ad hoc discussion developed as part of the new equipment discussion regarding the use of the paper pollbooks we provide for back-up in case of equipment malfunction and the apparent lack of universal conformity of use across precincts. This discussion reinforced the need to review this procedural requirement in our future training.

Relocation of CAP to the registrar's office space. Mr. Corwin described his plan to rearrange the office to accommodate in-person absentee voters at the CAP. The CAP pollbook and voting machine will be physically within the registrar's office. This is necessary to assure handicap access for all because of the narrow sidewalk and step-up to the equipment storage area. In addition, the anticipated increase in volume of in-person voting will be more efficiently handled within the office environment.

Public Comment. Ms. Lindenmuth and Ms. Tucker had concerns and questions regarding the mailings received encouraging people to absentee vote. Mr. Corwin indicated that third party organizations are behind sending these mailings out, about 500,000 to 600,000 in total so far. The enclosed form is a valid application form for an absentee ballot request; however, it is generating a great deal of confusion among voters. He has received many telephone calls asking if this is a scam and what people should do with the form. If he receives any of these prefilled forms properly filled out, signed, and the request is from a registered voter in the county he will process it and send out a ballot. Just today he received 65 of these forms in the mail to process.

Ms. Lindenmuth also said that she is very impressed with what she saw in today's meeting. The level of detail and the knowledge of the board is impressive.

The meeting recessed at 2:38 PM to reconvene in closed session for the purpose of Personnel performance evaluation.

The open session of The Board of Electors was called back into order by Chair Capello at 4:12 PM. Ms. Capello reported that there were no votes taken nor was there any discussion other than personnel performance during the closed session.

As there is no further business to come before the board, the meeting was recessed at 4:17 PM.

The next meeting will be on September 8, 2020 at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert P. Chadeayne

Secretary