



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES September 29, 2020 – 12:26 PM Absentee Meeting

The Rockingham County Board of Elections met Tuesday, September 29, 2020, at 12:26 PM in the Board of Elections Board Room.

Board Members Present: Royce Richardson, Chair; Toni Reece, Secretary; Leanna Lawson, Member; Jeff Parris, Member and Bonnie Purgason, Member

Staff Members Present: Amy Simpson, Senior Deputy Director, Kathy Clark, Deputy Director and Wendy Powell Temporary Staff Member

Other Persons Present: County Attorney John Morris

ITEM #1 – MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order at 12:26 PM by Chair Richardson. Chairman Richardson reviewed the process for Absentee Ballots review and approval.

ITEM #2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Secretary Reece made the motion to change Item #3 to an Executive Session pursuant NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) for the purpose of personnel. Chairman Richardson questioned if this could be done at an absentee meeting. Attorney John Morris confirmed it was allowed. Motion seconded by Member Purgason. Vote was unanimous to approve the agenda allowing the recommended change.

ITEM #3 – EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)

Staff members were excused and Board went into Executive Session. Chair Richardson entertained a motion to go back into open session. Member Lawson made the motion seconded by Member Purgason. Vote was unanimous to go back into open session.

ITEM #4 – RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION

Chair Richardson announced the meeting was back in open session. Secretary Reece made the motion to terminate the employment of Senior Deputy Director, Amy Simpson. Member Purgason seconded the motion and a vote was taken as follows:

Jeff Parris – Yay
Leanna Lawson – Yay
Toni Reece – Yay
Bonnie Purgason – Yay
Royce Richardson – No

The Deputy Director immediately demanded a closed session which was denied at that time. The Chair did grant a 15 minute recess. The Chair called the meeting back in session. Member Parris made the motion to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel, Member Lawson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Member Purgason made a motion to come out of closed session, Member Lawson seconded and the vote was unanimous. Chair Richardson announced the meeting was back in open session.

ITEM #5 - ABSENTEES

Member Purgason suggested stating the procedure for absentee ballots. Kathy Clark, Deputy Director stated the ballot comes back into the office, we look at it and make sure everything is ok and if it is we will date stamp it first. The staff reviews the ballot envelope to make sure the requirements are met for eligibility. The envelopes are then presented to the board for approving or denying, opening and then scanned into the DS 200.

Board began to review, open and insert into the DS 200. While inserting into the DS 200 the machine malfunctioned and the IT staff contacted the State Board for technical support. The ballots were secured, the DS 200 was locked and a motion was made by Member Purgason and seconded by Secretary Reece to adjourn. The vote was unanimous. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted.

Toni Reece, Secretary

Royce Richardson, Chair