



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2020 – 2:00 pm

The Rockingham County Board of Elections met Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at 2:00 pm in the Commissioners Chambers.

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

Staff Members Present: Tina Cardwell, Director; Amy Simpson, Senior Deputy Director; and Susan Barker, Deputy Director

Other Persons Present: John Morris, County Attorney; Members of the public

ITEM #1 – MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Chair Richardson. Chair Richardson welcomed those in attendance.

ITEM #2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Purgason, and the vote was unanimous to approve the January 21, 2020 agenda with the following amendments: Item #7 – Unfinished Business; #8 – New Business; #9 – Executive Session – Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) and NCGS 143-318-11(a)(6); #10 – Adjournment.

ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Lawson made the motion, seconded by Member Purgason, and the vote was unanimous to approve the December 17, 2019 minutes with the misquoted statute of NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) being amended to 143-318.11(a)(3).

ITEM #4 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

After the reading of Public Comment Rules by Senior Deputy Director, Simpson, the following individuals appeared to speak:

Don Powell – 636 King Street, Reidsville, NC

Mr. Chairman, I have in my hands some emails that was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act and I have a copy for each member of the board and one for Ms. Simpson. May I approach and give these to you? Ladies and gentlemen the emails that you have in front



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of you were obtained from Ms. Cardwell's personal, I mean County email account for the days of December 31st and January 2nd and if you will look on the first page you will see that this first email has to do with a house-warming shower that was to be held at the office. A floating shower from 1:00 to 4:00 pm on Friday, January the 17th. This was sent to an undisclosed amount of recipients and it was a house-warming party, I assume, for one of the employees of the, the department there. And on the second page you will see where this list of things she wished to obtain during this house-warming party sent out. And then on the fourth page you will see on January the 2nd where a change of plans had occurred and the shower would be a floating shower from 1:00 to 4:00 on Wednesday, January 15th and in fact that party, that shower was held. So let me say, in starting this, I think it is very honorable that people would do this for a co-worker, I just, I have a problem with doing it on the county time so to speak, the county's dime from 1:00 to 4:00. Had this been done during a lunch hour break I think it would have been purely acceptable and appropriate but the question would be begged from the tax payers such as myself, is if we can do the County's business from 8:00 to 12:00 then we would probably not need....I would ask to extend my time some so it took some time giving you out your things, if that is okay with the Chairman, is that okay? (Chairman extends for 1 minute). Thank you sir. So, as I was saying, if we can do the County's business in this Election Office from 8:00 to 12:00 basically, then it might be prudent that we close the office and save the taxpayers money. The other issue here would be if the staff took lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 then we now have a, a typically an office that is unmanned or unfunctional from 12:00 until 4:00 in the afternoon and there again let me just say to you once again that I have absolutely no problem with a house-warming party for somebody and my congratulations to this lady, I do not know her personally but I do see that there is a problem with doing this on the County's time and the taxpayers dime and I hope that you would take this into consideration and if there needs to be some revisions to policy to prevent this in the future, I hope you will take this under consideration. Thank you.

Ron Price – 218 Cedar Run, Reidsville, NC

I'm here to speak about the problems that we have with the government and elected officials overstepping their bounds. Legislature has, Legislature at the Federal Government level and at the State level have over abrogated their responsibility in overseeing Government operations. And what they have done is they have created organizations and given bureaucrats the right to legislate and make law. They are forming organizations a good example is the EPA, this is a problem when we have unelected officials making laws as we see in a number of cases, very prevalent at the Federal level. We recently had a situation here in North Carolina where a federal district judge overturned the vote of the people. That federal district which has a limited area and she spoke on behalf of the whole state in overturning Voter ID which was



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passed by the people in a majority. So that we had legislation, that was made available to protect the integrity of our election process. We need to be weary of what's going on around us when our laws and the will of the people are overturned. Especially when it's a clear example of a federal district judge making a decision to override the people's choice. Clearly making legislation from the bench. A district judge, a federal district judge or any judge for that matter they have a responsibility to interpret the law and not make laws. So we need to be aware of that and I'd promote everyone to be cognizant of what's going on around us in these situations. Thank you very much.

ITEM #5 – 2020 – 2021 BUDGET

Director Cardwell presented the Board with copies of prior budgets in their packets. Director Cardwell encouraged the Board to review the past comparable budgets and make their notes so concerns could be addressed prior to presenting the 2020 – 2021 Budget Request to the County Manager.

Members of the Board had questions pertaining to the 2019 – 2020 Budget. Director Cardwell stated that since this topic was not scheduled to be discussed at this meeting, she did not have any materials with her but would answer questions as best she could. For questions Director Cardwell could not answer having no documents, she informed the Board that she would get the information to them at a later time.

ITEM #6 – 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION PREPARATIONS

Director Cardwell updated the Board on all preparations for the 2020 Primary Election including the processes that have to be completed by the IT department, training, Absentee Voting and setting up of One Stop Early Voting locations.

Director Cardwell informed the Board of the Salvation Army's request that the Board of Elections pay a portion of the electrical and water bills.

Discussion took place concerning the distance being marked for people campaigning and the chains and tape will not be used this election but the 25 – 50 feet from the entrance would be marked at each voting location.

ITEM #7 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Member Purgason inquired about reimbursement of the Voter ID Equipment and the Phone Bank. Director Cardwell informed Member Purgason that the Voter ID Equipment had been reimbursed by the State. Director Cardwell explained the purpose of the Phone Bank and we would not be reimbursed for that.



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Member Purgason inquired if the Senior Deputy Director had to go open and close the polls for the 2019 Municipal Elections. Director Cardwell explained we did not have any Early Voting Sites except Wentworth for the 2019 Municipal Elections and Election Day Sites were opened and closed by the Chief Judges of each Precinct. Director Cardwell informed the Board that the Senior Deputy Director would be traveling to and from the Western One Stop Site during Early Voting for the 2020 Primary Election to upload and download the daily Voter History, replace necessary supplies, complete daily logs, and bring back secured ballots each day. Director Cardwell added that a Maintenance Staff Member would do the same for the Eden One Stop Site and a Maintenance Staff Member would also do the same for the Reidsville One Stop Site. Secretary Reece informed the Board she was told there were plenty of vehicles now and one could be secured for the duration of One Stop Early Voting. Director Cardwell informed the Board that we had previously inquired about reserving a County vehicle but had been told that we could not reserve a vehicle for the extended period of time but we would definitely inquire again.

Attorney Morris determined through statute that if Absentee by Mail Voting was offered for Municipal Elections, then One Stop Early Voting would have to be held at least at one location.

ITEM #8 – NEW BUSINESS

Packets for the February Elections Conference were received by each Board Member.

Discussion took place concerning reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at all monthly Board Meetings. Member Purgason made the motion, seconded by Secretary Reece and the vote was unanimous to add the Pledge of Allegiance to the Agendas after calling the meeting to order.

Member Purgason made the motion, seconded by Secretary Reece and the motion carried by a 3 to 2 vote to hold prayer after the Pledge of Allegiance at all monthly Board Meetings.

Secretary Reece – Yay
Member Purgason – Yay
Member Lawson – Yay

Chairman Richardson – Nay
Member Parris – Nay

ITEM #9 – EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) AND 143-318.11(a)(6)

Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Purgason, and the motion was unanimous to go into closed session at 3:30 pm.



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ITEM #10 – ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is set for February 11, 2020 @ 3:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Cardwell, Director

Royce Richardson, Chair