



# ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 17, 2019 – 3:00 pm

Regular Meeting

The Rockingham County Board of Elections met Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at 3:00 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: Amy Simpson, Senior Deputy Director; 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 3:00 pm by Chair Richardson. Chair Richardson welcomed those in attendance.

#### ITEM #2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Purgason made the motion, seconded by Secretary Reece, and the vote was unanimous to approve the December 17, 2019 agenda with the following amendments: Omission of Item #5 and add Executive Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) and NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) concerning personnel, to add to appropriate Item #.

#### ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Parris, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2019, Regular Meeting as presented.
- b. Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Parris, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2019, Absentee Meeting as presented.
- c. Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Parris, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2019, Absentee Meeting as presented.
- d. Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Parris, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2019, Called Meeting as presented.



# ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

- e. Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Parris, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2019, Absentee Meeting as presented.
- f. Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Parris, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2019, Absentee Meeting as presented.
- g. Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Parris, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2019, Called Meeting as presented.
- h. Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Parris, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2019, Absentee Meeting as presented.
- i. Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Parris, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019, Supplemental Absentee Meeting as presented.
- j. Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Parris, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019, Provisional Absentee Meeting as presented.
- k. Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Parris, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2019, Canvass Meeting as presented.

### **ITEM #4 – PUBLIC COMMENTS**

After the reading of Public Comment Rules by Senior Deputy Director, Member Purgason requested to make a statement before public comment began.

Member Purgason's Statement:

Mr. Chair, I just want to make a statement before we proceed into the public comments. All of you have just heard the rules of conduct for making public comments. At our October 15, 2019 meeting, Mr. Wally White signed up to speak and proceeded to mount a personal attack against a Board of Elections Member. You did nothing to stop this. From this day forward I'm requesting that you follow the rules of public comment or we will be forced to take action to stop such offenses.

Public Comments:

Malcolm Allen – Hwy 770, Eden, NC

I serve as president of our Eden NAACP and I'm just here today to offer a few words of encouragement as you consider the voting schedule for the year 2020 coming up. As we try to



# ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

restore voting integrity, you can play a huge role. After the drawing of the new maps many voters are energized, looking forward to 2020. I'm hoping that you can make the process pleasant and convenient as possible. If we loved this country as much as we profess, let us then stand up for her principles, for which voting is one. We are looking to you to make this happen and thank you for your service.

Ann Brady – 3190 NC 65, Reidsville, NC

I'm here just to say, and echo what Malcolm said, I want voting in this county to be pleasant, a wonderful experience for everybody. Everybody should have an opportunity to vote, a convenient opportunity to vote. What I'm hoping is you as a Board can work together to come up with something, I'm so tired of seeing the fighting in this county, and come up with something that works for everybody. I did pull some statistics and in the two, last, 12 and 16 more than half of the people that went to the polls, early voted. So our county likes to use early voting. I'm disappointed, which has nothing to do with this Board, that we no longer have local options, we no longer can pick which days and which hours we want the remote sites to be open and I would love to see that changed because our county's needs are not the same as everybody else and it would be nice to go back to that. But right now our choice is Wentworth only, or the 3 remote sites with Wentworth with the extended hours. So, I'm going to ask that we do have the remote sites open, people use them, people use them so I'm hoping that you will work together to make sure that we have our remote sites for this election. Thank you.

Roxanne Griffin – 108 S. Wilson Street, Madison, NC

I come to you today to speak to you on behalf of the Rockingham County Democratic Party. We as usual would like to encourage you to make voting easier, not harder. We also understand that you have statutory limits as to what you can and cannot do. And much as we wish that local authority had not been removed with regard to the scheduling of the One Stop Early Voting Plan. We find that as stated, the voters do use One Stop Early Voting and it being a Presidential Election year, I anticipate and I'm sure you do too, a very heavy turnout in both the primary and the general election. And that you should take into consideration precedence being set for future elections when you make your decision for the primary voting. As I said we'd like voting to be easier, not harder and therefore we'd like to request that you do open the remote sites in Eden, Reidsville and Madison-Mayodan. So, thank you very much for your good work and I'm sure that you will work together to accommodate the voters. Thank you.

### **ITEM #5 – 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION ONE STOP PLAN**

After discussion, Member Purgason made the motion, seconded by Secretary Reece, and the vote was 3 to 2 in favor of One Stop Plan #4 which consisted of:

Board of Elections open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday beginning February 13<sup>th</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.



# ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The 3 remote sites open from 8:00 am to 7:30 pm Monday through Friday beginning February 13<sup>th</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Remote sites are: Eden Library, Madison-Mayodan Library and Reidsville Salvation Army Community Center.

Chair Richardson – Aye  
Secretary Reece – Aye  
Member Purgason – Aye  
Member Lawson – Nay  
Member Parris – Nay

Member Parris made the motion, seconded by Member Lawson, and the vote was 2 to 3 in favor of One Stop Plan #4 with the addition of Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm and Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Member Lawson – Aye  
Member Parris – Aye  
Chair Richardson – Nay  
Secretary Reece – Nay  
Member Purgason – Nay

After further discussion Member Purgason resubmitted her original motion, seconded by Secretary Reece, and the vote was unanimous to approve One Stop Plan #4.

### **ITEM #6 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Member Purgason inquired about the cost for the Municipal Election and was informed that Director Cardwell was working on the invoices and they would be available soon. Secretary Reece and Member Purgason were concerned that Municipalities were being charged when Precinct Officials were working on office duties, Senior Director Simpson informed them that those hours were pulled and applied to the Temporary Staff line item.

After discussion, Attorney Morris would let the Board know if One Stop Early Voting was Statutory for Municipal Elections.

### **ITEM #7 – NEW BUSINESS**

None



# ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### **ITEM #8 – EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) AND 143-318.11(a)(6)**

Member Purgason made the motion, Secretary Reece seconded, and the motion was unanimous to go into Executive Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) and 143-318.11(a)(6) at 3:45 pm. Chair Richardson announced the Board was back in open session at 4:30pm.

### **ITEM #9 – ADJOURNMENT**

Member Lawson made the motion, seconded by Secretary Reece, and the motion was unanimous to recess the Board Meeting until Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 3:30 pm in the Commissioner's Conference Room at 4:31 pm.

Next meeting is set for December 18, 2020 – Continue Regular Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Amy Simpson, Senior Director

---

Royce Richardson, Chair