



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2019 – 3:00 pm
Regular Meeting

The Rockingham County Board of Elections met Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at 3:00 pm in the One Stop Room at the Board of Elections Office.

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; and Amy Simpson, Senior 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 Parris made the motion, seconded by Member Lawson, and the vote was unanimous to approve the September 17, 2019 agenda.

ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Parris made the motion, seconded by Member Lawson, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2019 Regular Board Meeting as presented.

ITEM #4 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Ron Price – 218 Cedar Run – Reidsville, NC

I'm going to talk about the issue of voting and the times required for that. I come from history as many people may have, years ago when you voted on one day and you had all day, but you had to get it done that day, you could do an absentee ballot, and I certainly run into a problem with a provisional ballot in several places around the country. But I think the goal is to make the opportunity for everybody to vote and have that in a convenient time. So the issue is, you know about the length of time that we have, I realize that there is a budget constraint and those budget constraints limit the amount of time we can't have unending, but we certainly do have a big opportunity because we can still vote absentee ballot. And as civic members we



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

have an opportunity to serve our fellow citizens by sharing with them the resources to get to voting places or even offering them a ballot, an absentee ballot and taking it and bringing it in and have it registration. Not harvesting ballots, but bringing them in and turning them in. And that needs to be orchestrated or officiated by the Elections Board. So, I think that opportunity to share that I believe sincerely in the opportunity for everybody who's legally qualified, and we need to verify that. I'm a member of True to Vote and Veritas, to assure that those ballots are actual, these people are authorized and I think we need to put a lot of emphasis on that to get these states around the country who are choosing to give voting rights to individuals who are not citizens and are not members of this country and reside here officially is a drain on every one of us. So we need to make sure that that happens, so as a purpose that we have is to assure that everybody is legal and doing what they need to do in order to vote, so that the people who have a responsibility to live here and pay for it actually get the results that should be effective now. I thank you for the opportunity to come and speak to you all.

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

I, too, am here to talk about voting. The principle of voting, this is something very fundamental in our country and I happen to believe that voting should be easier not harder. And for that reason, we have early voting, but our legislature has kind of thrown a wrench in the works for rural counties, in that we have smaller populations and yet we have people that are spread out all over the place. So early voting is a big deal for rural counties, in my opinion, and unfortunately the current situation remains that early voting any remote sites would be open for the entire early voting period, which puts a significant financial burden on the counties. So, I would like to encourage you to contact our State Representatives and Senators and encourage them to devise kind of formula that would allow counties to have the authority to determine what will best serve their constituents. We know from the 2018 elections that there was tremendous additional burden and we did, it served everyone very well except in the pocketbook, and I think we have the responsibility to resolve this. So that we both give people the opportunity, as many opportunities to vote at possible, but also to be financially responsible. Now, I hate this, the buzzer always throws me off into another world. So I'd like for you to examine what kind, you know, sometimes our legislators are as baffled by these things as we are, and so I hope that there is some kind of formula that you use normally to determine how many days we need for early voting, and perhaps offer that up to them and say, "Can you take a look at this, is there some formula that would allow you to give counties back the authority to determine what their counties need?" So, I would just like to appeal to you to examine this and see if there is something that you could put forth that would help legislators do the right thing. Thank you.



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

ITEM #5 – 2019 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS PREPARATIONS

- a. Director Cardwell provided a copy of the precinct official training schedule to each Board Member with a brief explanation. She informed the Board they would receive a copy of the training manuals when they arrived from the printer.
- b. Director Cardwell informed the Board that the Mock Election has been scheduled for October 2, 2019 at this time and gave a brief overview.
- c. Director Cardwell explained Equipment/Ballot Setup and Testing would be performed once coding was received and what that entails.
- d. Director Cardwell provided a copy of the One Stop (Early) Voting Schedule and information regarding what would take place.
- e. Director Cardwell explained how we were getting prepared for Election Day. It was determined the Chief Judges would now be responsible for the Absentee Lists, ADA Handicapped Assessable Checklist and the Precinct Supply Checklist.
- f. Director Cardwell reminded the Board that Canvass was the 10 day period following the Election, ending with the Canvass Meeting at 11:00 am on the 10th day and what would take place during that time frame.

ITEM #6 – 2019 – 2021 PRECINCT OFFICIALS APPOINTMENTS

Director Cardwell explained the 2019 – 2021 Precinct Officials Appointments list she presented each Board Member. It was determined moving forward the Board would fill any Judge position that becomes vacant.

Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Purgason, and the vote was unanimous if any of the judge positions become vacant, the Board would meet and refill those vacancies.

After discussion, Director Cardwell informed the Board, the column containing “Notes” on the Rockingham County Precinct Officials Master Appointment List and any other list, would be removed from viewing on anything outside of Executive Session.

ITEM #7 – DISCUSS COMMISSIONERS ACTIONS REGARDING LIVE STREAMING BOARD MEETINGS

Chair Richardson informed the Board that the Commissioners had approved Roy Sawyers to live stream the Rockingham County Board of Elections meetings for the rest of the fiscal year beginning in October 2019.

ITEM #8 – RESPONSE TO LETTER FROM COUNTY MANAGER REGARDING 2020 PRIMARY COSTS

Chair Richardson informed the Board he had received a letter from the County Manager requesting an estimation of the breakdown for the 2020 Primary Cost for Election Precinct



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Staff. Chair Richardson said he would be preparing a response and all Board Members would receive a copy of the correspondence once it was prepared.

ITEM #9 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Cardwell informed the Board of the response from the Fire Marshall concerning room capacity for the rooms in the Board of Elections Office per their request.

Director Cardwell informed the Board they had a copy of the quote in their packet, for the buzzer system as requested previously by the Board. She gave a brief description of functionality and informed the Board the request for funds would be on the agenda for the first Commissioner's meeting in October 2019.

Chair Richardson stated the Board had discussed moving the Board of Elections meeting to the Commissioners Room but had not voted upon it.

Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Purgason the motion carried with a 4 to 1 vote to move the regular monthly Board Meetings to the Commissioners Room at the Governmental Center.

Secretary Reece – Aye
Member Lawson – Aye
Member Parris – Aye
Member Purgason – Aye
Chair Richardson – No

ITEM #10 – NEW BUSINESS

Director Cardwell informed the Board, Senior Deputy Director, Amy Simpson had been requested to appear at a Hearing for Joseph Irving for being non-compliant with his 4th Quarter Report. The hearing will take place at the High Point Courthouse at 9:00 am on Thursday, September 19, 2019. Senior Deputy Director, Amy Simpson informed the Board of some of the questions she may be asked.

Director Cardwell informed the Board of the date and time of the Citizen's Academy and presented each member with a paper copy of the presentation.

Director Cardwell reminded the Board of the email she forwarded regarding Cyber Security and gave each member a paper copy.



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Member Purgason stated she was grateful to see the citizens coming to the Board meetings to see the things that are done. Member Purgason wanted to remind everyone there is a smoking policy for county governmental buildings.

Member Purgason requested the cost to the Board of Elections that results from the events during Voter Awareness Month after all events are completed. She would also like to know the total number of registrants acquired by holding these events.

Member Purgason stated she has been subpoenaed to Federal Court for 6 weeks of jury duty. She has requested a postponement of this and will inform the Board of the answer when she is notified.

ITEM #11 – ADJOURNMENT

Member Lawson made the motion, seconded by Secretary Reece, and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 4:41 pm.

Next meeting is set for October 15, 2019 @ 3:00 pm – Regular Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Cardwell, Director

Royce Richardson, Chair