



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 20, 2019 – 3:00 pm
Regular Meeting

The Rockingham County Board of Elections met Tuesday, August 20, 2019, at 3:00 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: 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

Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Parris, and the vote was unanimous to approve the August 20, 2019 agenda with the following changes:

Combining - Item #9 Executive Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss personnel, Item #13 Executive Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) to discuss privileged and confidential information and add Executive Session Pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11(a)(3) to discuss legal issue with our attorney.

Move – Item #10 - 2019 – 2020 Precinct Officials Appointments after New Business

ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Lawson made the motion, seconded by Member Parris, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2019 Regular Board Meeting as presented.

ITEM #4 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Wally White, 314 Von Ruck Road, Eden

I have way more concerns that I can handle in three minutes about what's happening around this board. I just want to start by saying that I so appreciate the work that happens here, that I



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think that the work that happens here is at the very foundation of democracy, which is what makes our country, our state and our county great. And I feel like having watched the Budget Meetings last night on line that there is at least the appearance of a financial attack on this Board and it concerns me greatly. And I want this Board to be there fighting for it, for these workers, who work a lot of hours, that they've now been put on comp time, one of the questions that's come up, "Is the comp time going to be hour for hour or an hour and half for the hour of overtime?" I don't think anybody should be asked to work for free in a job, if somebody wants to volunteer, that's fine, but that's not what they've done and what's being done here is unfair, and so it's of concern to me. The one thing I really want to add, is there was a discussion during the Budget Meeting about whether one person could be in this office by themselves or not. Well, I was friends with a lady named Nan Doyle, I don't know how many of you remember her, and she had Nan's Hallmark. She was kidnapped out of her store in Meadow Green Shopping Center because she worked alone. That changed for a lot of people in this county how many times somebody could work alone in an office that can't be seen that well, it is dangerous. And the answer to them, just lock the door and let it go, well, that's a problem too, because Voter ID got passed and people now have to come here to get a Voter ID. And if they make the trek, if it's somebody of financial struggle that makes the trek out here and the door is closed during hours when it is supposed to be open, that's a problem. So, that means that people do need to be here, so them cutting the temp by half, from 2000 to 1000 hours is a problem. Thank you.

ITEM #5 – DISCUSSION OF 2019 JULY CONFERENCE

During discussion of the 2019 July Conference, pros and cons were shared regarding the Conference.

ITEM #6 – TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF SOUTHEAST VOTERS FOR THE 2019 REIDSVILLE MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Lawson, and the vote was unanimous to adopt the resolution to transfer SOUTHEAST Voters for the 2019 Municipal Election to the McCoy precinct.

ITEM #7 – STATE BOARD REDRAWING OF PRECINCT LINES

Director Cardwell presented the Board with a printed copy of an E-Mail that had been forwarded to them in July regarding the State Boards Redrawing of Precinct Lines. She informed them that GIS had confirmed that there were no changes made to our lines, everything was an exact overlay.



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ITEM #8 – 2019 MUNICIPAL ONE STOP PLAN

Member Purgason made the motion, seconded by Secretary Reece, and the vote was unanimous to adopt a One Stop Plan for the 2019 Municipal Elections. One Stop (Early) Voting will take place Wednesday, October 16th through Friday, November 1st, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm in Wentworth at the Board of Elections Office.

ITEM #9 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chair Richardson informed the Board he had discussed the possibility of moving the County Board of Elections meetings to the Commissioners Room with County Manager, Lance Metzler and Clerk to the Board, Keli Watkins and briefly restated those conversations. After discussion, Member Parris made the motion, seconded by Secretary Reece, and the vote was unanimous to move the County Board of Elections Meetings to a larger room within the Board of Elections Office.

Chair Richardson informed the Board of his discussion with County Manager, Lance Metzler concerning Roy Sawyers (Rockingham Update) live streaming the County Board of Elections Meetings. The fee would be \$250.00 per meeting. The County Manager informed Chair Richardson that there were not funds available for this cost.

Senior Deputy Director, Amy Simpson informed the Board that County Manager, Lance Metzler confirmed that Board members could not utilize county vehicles for conferences.

Director Cardwell presented the Board with a quote they had requested for a new door buzzer system for the County Board of Elections Office and briefly explained how it would work. Chair Richardson agreed to approach the County Commissioners for allocation of funds for the system.

Senior Deputy Director, Amy Simpson reminded the Board she was asked as to why a County Employee opened and closed the Remote One Stop Locations and she asked Director Cardwell to explain why this was the case since she was much more experienced and knowledgeable of the situation. Director Cardwell explained the opening and closing procedures for each day that Remote One Stop Locations are open.

ITEM #10 – NEW BUSINESS

Chair Richardson informed the Board he had received a letter concerning the budget for Elections Precinct Staff for the Municipal Elections in November 2019. Director Cardwell explained the breakdown that had been provided with the 2019 – 2020 Budget Request that was unanimously approved by the Elections Board on March, 19, 2019.



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Director Cardwell stated she would prepare a further breakdown for Elections Precinct Staff for the 2019 Municipal Elections in accordance with the 2019 Municipal Elections One Stop (Early) Voting Plan that was adopted by the Elections Board earlier in this meeting.

A question was asked of the County Attorney, John Morris by Secretary Reece concerning the Budget, "If the County Board of Elections went over on the budget, could the Board be held responsible?" His response was if the expenditures somehow, got past Finance and were paid, yes, the Board could possibly be held responsible. Member Purguson wanted to go on record stating she would not be responsible and Secretary Reece said she wanted to state that also.

Chair Richardson informed the Board the County Board of Elections received an award, along with several other departments, from the Commissioner of Labor, a Certificate of Safety Achievement for obtaining first year goal.

ITEM #11 – EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1), G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) AND G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)

Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Lawson, and the vote was unanimous to go into Executive Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1), G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) at 4:28 pm.

Chair Richardson called the Open Session Meeting back to order at 6:13 pm.

ITEM #12 – 2019 – 2021 PRECINCT OFFICIALS APPOINTMENTS

Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Lawson, and the vote was unanimous to approve the 2019 – 2021 Rockingham County Precinct Officials List as discussed in closed session.

ITEM #13 - ADJOURNMENT

Secretary Reece made the motion, seconded by Member Lawson, and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Next meeting is set for September 17, 2019 @ 3:00 pm – Regular Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Cardwell, Director

Royce Richardson, Chair