

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 – 10:00 AM
REGULAR MEETING**

The Rockingham County Board of Elections met Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commissioners Chambers.

Board Members Present: Ophelia Wright, Chair; Tom Schoolfield, Secretary; Nelson Cole, Member; Thurman Hampton, Member; and Sarah Totten, Member.

Staff Members Present: Paula Seamster, Director.

ITEM #1 – MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Wright. Chair Wright welcomed the Board members and the guests that were present.

ITEM #2 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Director.

ITEM #3 – INVOCATION

Chair Wright stated that the person who was going to give the invocation was not present and added that an Invocation could be done at the beginning of a meeting or at the end.

ITEM #4 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Cole moved, seconded by Member Hampton to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #5 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Totten moved, seconded by Member Hampton to approve the August 16, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #6 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Director read the Public Comments policy.

Royce Richardson –

“Madam Chairman, Members of the Board, good morning. My name is Royce Richardson, I live at 300 West Hunter Street, Madison, NC. I come before you today to offer my appreciation and thanks for your Board’s approval of the negotiated settlement for the liability lawsuit filed against the previous County Board of Elections. This lawsuit was filed by the former Senior Deputy Director of Elections against the last Board of Elections for their unlawful termination of the Senior Deputy Director almost two years ago today. This unlawful termination was done with a 4 to 1 vote by the previous Board. As defendants in the lawsuit the previous Board was afforded legal counsel by the insurance company that insures Rockingham County. They negotiated a settlement which was recently settled between the counsel representing the plaintiff, the previous Senior Deputy Director, and the counsel representing the defendants, the former Board, by the County’s insurance carrier. It should be noted and I believe it to be true, the County’s liability insurance policy carries a \$25,000 liability deductible which I believe would be in effect prior to any payment from the insurance carrier. I realize that your Board, as it is currently comprised, had nothing to do with the

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unlawful termination however I do appreciate your agreeing to this settlement. Thank you very much.”

With no further Public Comments, Chair Wright closed Public Comments.

ITEM #7 – 2022 GENERAL ELECTION CHIEF JUDGE LIST

The Director stated that in the Board’s packet there was a list of the 2022 General Election Chief Judge List for all 15 voting precincts. She added that Rockingham County has lost some more precinct officials due to deaths, sicknesses, and retirement so the Board of Elections was looking for more precinct officials for the upcoming elections. The Director stated that she thought the precinct officials list looked great for the General Election and the training sessions would be coming up soon. She wanted to make sure that the Board had the list of the Chief Judges.

ITEM #7 – DIRECTOR’S UPDATE

2022 General Election Information

The Director stated that on Friday, September 9, 2022 Absentee Mail-In Ballots started to be mailed out and as of yesterday, September 19th, 333 Absentee Ballots have been mailed out and are being received back in the mail daily. She added that the Board’s first Absentee Board Meeting will be Tuesday, October 4th at 5:00 p.m. at the Board of Elections Office.

- Friday, October 14, 2022 - Voter Registration Deadline
- Thursday, October 20, 2022 - One-Stop (Early) Voting begins. The 4 One-Stop (Early) Voting locations will be: The Rockingham County Board of Elections Office – 240 Cherokee Camp Road, Reidsville; Eden Library – 598 S. Pierce Street, Eden; Zion Baptist Church – 807 Piedmont Street, Reidsville; and Madison Mayodan Library – 611 Burton Street, Madison. The hours of operation at the Board of Elections office will be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday starting Thursday, October 20, 2022 through Friday, November 4, 2022 and then on Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The other three locations hours of operation will be from 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. starting Thursday, October 20, 2022 through Friday, November 4, 2022 and then on Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 8, 2022 - 2022 General Election starts at 6:30 a.m. and the polls will close at 7:30 p.m. All 15 precincts will be open. Voting will not be held at the Rockingham County Board of Elections Office on Election Day!!!
- Friday, November 18, 2022 - County Canvass will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the Board of Elections Office.

The Director stated that the Absentee Board Meetings will begin Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. and will be held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. at the Board of Elections Office through Tuesday, November 1, 2022. Pre-Election Absentee Board Meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. and an Absentee Board Meeting will be held on Election Day, November 8, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. There will be a Provisional/Absentee Board Meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. and if needed on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

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- Tuesday, October 4, 2022 – Logic and Accuracy Testing on the Voting Machines. She stated that time had not been set as of yet but, it would be advertised and the testing would be open to the public. She added that staff would need to know how many would be attending so accommodations could be made in the Board of Elections Workshop.
- Thursday, October 6, 2022 – Mock Election is scheduled through the State Board of Elections

The Director stated that she had a question, the Board of Elections would have two Board Meetings that will be held at the same time that the Absentee Board Meetings would take place, the October and November Board meeting, and she asked if the Board would be able to meet at 4:00 p.m. She stated that he had talked with Roy Sawyer about videoing at 4:00 p.m. and he was good with that but she wanted to know if this would work for the Board of Elections. The Board of Elections was in agreement.

2022 NC State Board of elections Summer Conference

The 2022 NC State Board of Elections Summer Conference was held on Tuesday, August 30th and Wednesday, August 31st at the Board of Elections Office. The Director stated that it was a very informative conference and she asked the Board if there were any comments on the conference.

Case 1:20-cv-100 Amy Simpson v. Rockingham County Board of Elections, et al Update

The Director stated that the Case 1:20-cv-100 Amy Simpson v. Rockingham County Board of Elections, Bonnie Purgason, and Toni Reece had been dismissed with prejudice. The Rockingham County's Risk Management Insurer, Travelers, paid the plaintiff \$75,000.

ITEM #9 – ADJOURNMENT

At 10:15 a.m. **Member Cole moved, seconded by Member Totten to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Paula P. Seamster, Director

Ophelia Wright, Chair