

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 18, 2022 – 4:00 PM  
REGULAR MEETING**

The Rockingham County Board of Elections met Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 4:00 p.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 4:00 p.m. by Chair Wright. Chair Wright welcomed the Board members and the guests that were present as well as those watching via the internet.

**ITEM #2 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Secretary Schoolfield.

**ITEM #3 – INVOCATION**

Chair Wright gave the invocation. The person that was going to give the invocation had a family emergency.

**ITEM #4 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**ITEM #5 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Secretary Schoolfield moved, seconded by Member Cole to approve the September 20, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes and the October 4, 2022 Absentee Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ITEM #6 – PUBLIC COMMENTS**

With no one signed up for Public Comments, Chair Wright closed Public Comments.

**ITEM #7 – AUTHORITY OF CHIEF JUDGES AND ONE STOP SITE COORDINATORS AT THE POLLING SITES**

The Director stated that in that Board packet she provided some information regarding the North Carolina General Statute 163-48. Maintenance of Order at Place of Registration and Voting as well as the Numbered Memo 2022-12 from the North Carolina State Board of Elections which also addresses the authority of chief judges and the One Stop Site Coordinators at the polling places. She stated that the County Boards have a responsibility to ensure their poll workers are equipped to maintain order at the polls. State law requires county boards to “ensure that adequate procedures are in place at each polling place for a safe, secure, fair, and honest election. County boards should ensure that all elections officials are familiar with the county board’s emergency plan and know who to contact if a problem arises. The Director stated that all the chief judges and the one stop site coordinators do have the emergency plans and are prepared just in case. The Director read NCGS 163-48.

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**ITEM #8 – SECURITY DURING THE ELECTION**

The Director stated that the security during the election went right in line with the authority of the chief judges and the one stop site coordinators but she added Number Memo 2022-01. She stated that in regards to the actual security measures we are not at liberty to discuss those in an open meeting but she did want the Board to know that security measures were in place.

**ITEM #9 – DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

2022 General Election Information

The Director stated that on Friday, September 9, 2022 Absentee Mail-In Ballots started being mailed out. 730 absentee mail-in ballots have been mailed out as of today, October 18<sup>th</sup>. 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; Eden Library; Zion Baptist Church; and Madison Mayodan Library. 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. Voting will not be done 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. Absentee Board Meetings begin on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. and will continue to 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 at 5:00 p.m. Provisional/Absentee Board meetings will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2022 and Monday, November 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Logic and Accuracy Testing

The Director stated that the Logic and Accuracy Testing was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 – WXII News was present during the Logic and Accuracy Testing. All of the DS200 and Automark voting machines were tested for logic and accuracy. She stated that the ballots that were used for the testing were from the vendor and they were pre-marked as well as ballots marked by the Automark machines.

Mock Election

The Director stated that with the information that was gathered from the Logic and Accuracy Testing a Mock Election was held on Thursday, October 6, 2022 and the Mock Election was successful. She stated that everything went through and all the numbers matched.

Write-In Candidates

The Director stated that the Board of Elections has received a lot of telephone calls about Write-In Candidates and who can be written in as a write-in. According to NCGS 163-123 Any qualified voter who seeks to have write-in votes counted in the general election should/shall file a declaration of intent which contains the applicant's name, residential address, declaration of applicant's intent to be a write-in candidate, title of the office sought, date of the election, date of the declaration, and

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the applicant's signature. Once this is done the write-in candidates are required to obtain registered voter's signatures on a petition. If it is a statewide office 500 qualified voters of the state are required. If the office is a district office under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Elections 250 qualified voters of that district are required. If the office is a county office, or a school administrative unit office elected on a partisan basis, or a legislative district consisting of a single county or a portion of a county 100 qualified voters of that county are required. On the Rockingham County ballot there are Write-In Candidates for the US Senate seat, NC State Senate District 26 seat, and the Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor seats which are Nonpartisan offices.

Local High Schools Registration Drive

The Director stated that all 4 local high schools participated in the registration drive prior to the Voter Registration Deadline on Friday, October 14th. The Board of Elections received 8 voter registration forms from this drive. RCC Early College had a registration drive in September on National Voter Registration Day and received 5 voter registrations. She stated that all the high schools stated that they would like to do this again. The Director stated that this was the first time this has been done since before COVID. She stated that she hoped to get the high schools more involved in more things. The Director asked if there were any questions.

Chair Wright stated that the Director may want to mention the age requirements. The Director responded that she had this to discuss because this was one of the questions that had been asked.

The Director stated that in North Carolina 17 year olds can pre-register to vote and can vote provided that they will be 18 years old by the General Election date. 16 year olds are allowed to pre-register to vote and will be automatically registered to vote when eligible to vote in accordance with G.S. 163-82.7. She stated that every state had a general statute that they follow.

The Director stated that the Rockingham County Board of Elections had a high school student to come in and shadow the Board of Elections on Wednesday, October 12, 2022. This was part of a class project. This student was told about the different things that the Board of Elections goes through in preparation for an election, how individuals get registered to vote, the differences between early voting and election day voting, absentee mail-in ballots, etc. She thanked Chair Wright for having this young man to call our office for this class project.

Secretary Schoolfield asked what the required age was to be a precinct official. The Director responded that there is a program for high school students to work as Student Election Assistants and the students do have to be 17 years old. The Student Election Assistant have to fill out an application that requires a parent's signature as well as their principal's signature. She stated that the Board of Elections originally had 3 Student Election Assistants to sign up but now we will only have 1 Student Election Assistant on Election Day. The Director stated that this is the first time Rockingham County has tried this program from what she understood but it is something that the State Board encourages and she hoped that this would encourage more seniors involved in working on Election Day. She stated that the Student Election Assistants are paid just like all the other precinct officials.

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Board of Elections Building

The Director informed the Board that the Board of Elections office and Workshop had been going through some renovations. The gutters on both buildings have been replaced and the roof is in the process of being sealed. She stated that the screws on both roofs that been secured and we are just waiting for the roofs to be sealed. She stated that she would like to thank the County Manager and the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners for making this possible and for allowing the funding for these renovations to take place. The Director stated that the buildings look a lot better.

Chair Wright stated that this was not the first thing that had been done to the Board of Elections building but it was the most recent renovation and she stated that the Board really appreciated all of work that had been done.

**ITEM #10 – ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:27 p.m. **Member Cole moved, seconded by Member Hampton to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Paula P. Seamster, Director

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Ophelia Wright, Chair