

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 16, 2023 – 10:00 AM
REGULAR MEETING**

The Rockingham County Board of Elections met Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Rockingham County Governmental Center Commissioners Chambers.

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

Staff Members Present: Paula Seamster, Director.

ITEM #1 – MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

ITEM #2 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Katherine Pasour, Rock Central Precinct Official.

ITEM #3 – INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Pastor Jody Delancey, Resurrection Life Church in Eden.

ITEM #4 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

ITEM #5 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Secretary Schoolfield moved, seconded by Member Hampton to approve the April 18, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes and April 25, 2023 Budget Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #6 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM #7 – ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS FACILITY SECURITY AND ACCESS POLICY

The Director stated that general counsel had been working on this policy for the Board of Elections in regards to the Board of Elections office facility and who is allowed access to the facility. She asked the Board if it had time to review the policy. The Director stated that in order to gain access to the Board of Elections office a badge is required as well as a security code to disarm the alarm. She stated that if a badge is lost or misplaced that individual is required to notify the Board of Elections office or Human Resources so the badge can be deactivated. The Director stated that staff is required to check all exterior doors to make sure that they are completely latched and if anything occurs after business hours the Director is notified. She stated that the Board of Elections is considered critical infrastructure through Homeland Security and that is one of the reasons why this policy needed to be put in place. The Director asked if there were any questions. She also asked the Board if it felt comfortable with the policy to make a motion to approve but if the Board was not comfortable, the policy could be put on the next agenda.

Chair Wright asked the Board if there were any questions or comments.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 16, 2023 – 10:00 AM
REGULAR MEETING**

Secretary Schoolfield asked if this policy would change, the way the operations run now with individuals wanting to come into the building. The Director responded, no sir. Secretary Schoolfield stated that the doors are normally locked. The Director responded, yes, the doors are locked and in order to gain access to the building the individual would need to hit the call button in order to be allowed access to the building.

Member Hampton moved, seconded by Secretary Schoolfield to approve the Rockingham County Board of Elections Facility Security and Access Policy. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #8 – DIRECTOR’S UPDATE

a. Municipal Elections

The Director stated that Candidate Filing for Municipal Elections would begin on Friday, July 7th at 12:00 p.m. (noon) and end on Friday, July 21st at 12:00 p.m. (noon). She listed the offices that would be on the ballot for the Municipal Elections:

- City of Eden: Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 6, and Ward 7 Council seats
- Town of Madison: Mayor, 3 Alderman seats
- Town of Mayodan: Mayor, 3 Council seats
- City of Reidsville: District A – 2 Council seats, District B – 2 Council seats
- Town of Stoneville: Mayor, 3 Council seats
- Town of Wentworth: 3 Council seats

The Director stated that all of the events that will be coming up for the Municipal Election have been put on the Board of Elections website and as the election gets closer she would start to list the events.

b. Events/Speaking Engagements

The Director stated that:

- On Tuesday, April 18, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Board of Elections had a tent set up at the Rockingham Community College Job Fair. Precinct Official Marilyn Watkins represented the Board of Elections at this event. 15 registrations and 4 precinct applications were received.
- On Saturday, April 22 from 10:00 am. to 5:00 p.m., the Board of Elections had a tent set up at the Spring Into Madison Festival. Glenda Davis and Glenda Pritchard represented the Board of Elections. 0 registrations and 0 precinct applications were received.
- On Saturday, May 13th from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the Board of Elections had a tent set up at the Creative Vision Hair & Beauty Expo at the Camaleon Event Center located at 201 East Meadow Road in Eden. Kenneth Allen and Rocky Turner represented the Board of Elections. One registration received.
- On Saturday, May 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., the Board of Elections will have a tent set up at the Stoneville May Day Festival in Stoneville. Precinct Officials Melanie Harrington and Ruth Ann Goins will be representing the Board of Elections at this event.
- On Monday, May 22nd the Director of Elections has been asked to speak at the Reidsville Rotary Club Meeting at Monterey’s.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 16, 2023 – 10:00 AM
REGULAR MEETING

- On Wednesday, May 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., there will be an Election Expo at the Rockingham County Board of Elections. Everyone is invited to stop by. This is a floating event. We will have several precinct officials helping with this event.
- On Saturday, June 10th from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., the Board of Elections will have a tent set up at the Juneteenth Celebration at Market Square in Reidsville. Precinct Officials John Harris and Frank Wilson will be representing the Board of Elections at this event.

Chair Wright stated that she did not have any questions but she appreciated getting calendars with the events listed so that the Board members will know when the events will be occurring. The Director responded that she had put at each seat calendars for May, June, and July and each month she would try to have the Board updated calendars so that they will be able to attend some of these events.

c. Videos and Podcasts

The Director informed the Board and the public that one podcast and one video had been completed and both are posted on the Board of Elections website under Voter Information. She added that more would be coming.

d. Voter ID and Felony Sentence Changes

The Director stated that on Friday, April 29th the law on Voter ID and Felony Sentence voting changed. Starting with the Municipal Election this fall voters will be required to have a photo ID in order to vote, there are certain exceptions to this rule and that information will be coming out soon. She stated that the State Board of Elections is working on getting the voter photo identification printer set up to issue cards to individuals that do not have a photo ID without a fee.

Member Hampton asked if the photo ID had to be provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Director responded that there will be other options but the County Boards of Elections has not received the complete list of acceptable photo IDs as of yet, the State Board of Elections is working on this list. The Director stated that as soon as the information is received it would be posted on the Board of Elections website and the Facebook page and it would also be sent out to the Sunshine List.

Member Hampton asked if the precinct officials would be trained on what will be accepted as a photo ID. The Director responded yes the precinct officials will be trained on which photo IDs are acceptable and which ones are not especially during One Stop (Early) Voting because individuals can register during that time.

The Director stated that photo IDs are also required with the Absentee Mail In Ballots as well however, all of this information has not been received as of yet.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 16, 2023 – 10:00 AM
REGULAR MEETING

Secretary Schoolfield asked if there was a possibility of the photo ID being required might be changed. The Director responded that she did not think so but the Board of Elections was moving forward with photo IDs being required for the 2023 Municipal Election.

Chair Wright asked if the new changes are part of the general statute. The Director responded that this was decided by the North Carolina Supreme Court. Chair Wright asked if there were any numbers associated with this ruling. The Director responded that she was not aware of any numbers associated with the ruling from the North Carolina State Supreme Court.

Member Hampton asked if there had been any comments or suggestions on the one podcast or video. The Director responded that the Board of Elections had not received any calls or comments on the podcast or the video. She added that this was new and a lot of people are still not aware of the podcasts and videos that are being recorded but the word is getting out.

The Director stated that the law on felony convictions changes as well. She stated that the way the law was written prior to April 29th if you were a felon and as long as you were not incarcerated and had registered to vote a felon was allowed to vote but now a felon has to have completed his or her sentence as well as probation/parole and his or her rights have been restored in order to register to vote.

e. Reidsville Redistricting

The Director informed the Board that she failed to mention to the Board that the City of Reidsville just recently went through redistricting with the city's Districts A and B. She stated that the redistricting was approved by a resolution at the last City of Reidsville Board Meeting that made some changes to District B voters that will now be District A voters. The Director stated that the Board of Elections has made the necessary changes in SEIMS and will be issuing new voter ID cards to the affected voters. She stated that it affected two census blocks located near and around the Greenview Cemetery.

Member Cole asked if the Director knew how many residents were in District A and District B. The Director responded that she did not know. Member Cole asked if the Director knew why this change was made. The Director stated that the municipality usually goes by the last census to determine if redistricting is necessary.

Chair Wright stated that in the email that the Director gave to the Board, the City of Reidsville had several options to choose from and the Council chose Option 1. She added that the other options were not listed in the email.

Secretary Schoolfield stated that the Board of Elections does not have anything to do with the redistricting of any municipality but if someone has any questions about the redistricting they would need to contact the City of Reidsville. The Director responded that this was correct and the responsibility of the Board of Elections is to inform the registered voters in the affected areas receive new voter registration cards with the correct information on their voting districts and precincts.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 16, 2023 – 10:00 AM
REGULAR MEETING**

f. NC State Board of Elections Summer Conference

The Director informed the Board that the NC State Board of Elections Summer Conference had been announced and will be held August 13th – August 15th in Concord, NC. She stated that the Board regular meeting date falls on August 15th and she asked the Board to think about a possible reschedule date for this regular Board meeting.

Secretary Schoolfield asked if anything had been heard back on the budget. The Director responded that what had been discussed at the last Board meeting was the same and that the Utilities line item would be \$5200 which would be somewhere around 30 – 35% of the utilities bills.

Chair Wright asked if the two sections of the building could have separate utility meters. The Director responded that this would be a very expensive undertaking to do that due to the plumbing lines, electrical lines, and heat duct lines.

ITEM #10 – ADJOURNMENT

At 10:42 a.m. **Member Cole moved, seconded by Secretary Schoolfield to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Paula P. Seamster, Director

Ophelia Wright, Chair