

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 18, 2023 – 12:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING

The Rockingham County Board of Elections met Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 12:00 pm at the Board of Elections Office..

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

Staff Members Present: Paula Seamster, Director

ITEM #1 – MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by Chair Wright. Chair Wright welcomed a full house of guests for the meeting as well as those watching the meeting live via the internet.

ITEM #2 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Miss Aspen R. Glenn, rising 3rd Grader at Monroeton Elementary and Miss Rhyland D. Glenn, rising 1st Grader at Monroeton Elementary.

ITEM #3 – INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Rev. Allandus Wright, Jr., Associate Minister at First Baptist Church on Hubbard Street in Reidsville.

ITEM #4 – OATH OF OFFICE FOR 2023 – 2024 BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Wright stated that Judge Stanley L. Allen and Register of Deeds Benjamin J. Curtis would be administering the Oaths of Office to the Board of Elections Members. She added that Miss Erin Rakestraw, a rising 12th Grader at Rockingham County High School, would be holding the Bible for the Board of Elections Members.

Judge Stanley L. Allen, Superior Court Judge administered the Oaths of Office to Mr. Edward Nelson Cole, Mr. Thurman Bruce Hampton and Ms. Ophelia Powell Wright.

Mr. Benjamin J. Curtis, Register of Deeds administered the Oaths of Office to Mr. Thomas R. Schoolfield, III and Sarah Jones Totten.

Chair Wright thanked Miss Rakestraw for holding the Bible for the Board of Elections Members. She also thanked Judge Stanley L. Allen and Register of Deeds Benjamin J. Curtis for administering the Oaths of Office to the Board of Elections Members.

(The Oaths of Office are on file in the Director's Office)

The Board took a brief recess.

ITEM #5 – ORGANIZATION OF BOARD – NOMINATION OF SECRETARY

Member Schoolfield moved, seconded by Member Cole to nominate Sarah Totten as Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

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ITEM #6 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

ITEM #7 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Secretary Totten moved, seconded by Member Schoolfield to approve the June 20, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Member Schoolfield stated that the Director did a great job pulling the Minutes together. Chair Wright thanked Member Schoolfield for working with the Director to compile the Minutes.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #8 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Wright stated that no one signed up to speak during Public Comments so she closed Public Comments.

ITEM #9 – DISCUSSION ON REGULAR BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Chair Wright stated that she wanted to bring this back before the Board Members to see if the Board wanted to continue having the meeting at 10:00 a.m. or make changes to this time.

Member Cole moved, seconded by Secretary Totten to leave the Board of Elections meetings on the third Tuesday of each month to 10:00 a.m.

Member Schoolfield stated that he thought this time worked well with other commitments that he has on that same day.

Upon a vote on the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #10 – 2023 MUNICIPAL ELECTION ONE-STOP PLAN

The Director stated that included in the Board's packet was the State Board of Elections' requirements on the One-Stop site Plans. The County Board of Elections office must be open at least regular business hours which is 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and then from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the last Saturday before the election on November 4th. She stated that the Municipal Election is paid for by the six municipalities in Rockingham County so there is usually only one One-Stop site open. The Director stated that her recommendation was to begin One-Stop Voting on Thursday, October 19th and continue through Saturday, November 4th, this would be Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and then the last Saturday, November 4th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Board of Elections Office.

Member Schoolfield stated that for clarification these times are the minimum requirements from the State Board of Elections. The Director responded that the recommendation was the minimum requirements. Member Schoolfield stated that if the Board wanted to have less days it would not be able to but if the Board wanted more days it could. The Director responded that

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this was correct. Member Schoolfield stated that this would be 13 days, 9 hours a day, and 120 some hours to vote other than Election Day should be sufficient.

Member Totten moved, seconded by Member Cole to approve the One Stop (Early) Voting Plan that was presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The deadline to submit the 2023 Municipal Elections One Stop Implementation Plan to the North Carolina State Board of Elections is August 4, 2023 as per Numbered Memo 2023-01 which is also included in the Board's packet.

ITEM #11 – SUMMER CONFERENCE – AUGUST 13 – 15, 2023

The Director stated that included in the Board's packet was the North Carolina State Board of Elections 2023 Elections Training Conference information. The theme of the conference will be "Strengthening Our Foundation". The registrations for the conference and the reservations for the hotel have already been made. She stated that she and the members will be leaving on Sunday evening to check in and there is early registration on Sunday. The Director stated that the Conference would be held all day on Monday and most of the day on Tuesday and then they would be traveling back to Rockingham County on Tuesday.

Member Schoolfield stated that he wanted clarification that this conference is a requirement for the staff and not the Board members. The Director responded that the Director was required to attend the Conference. She added that the current Board of Elections had fulfilled its obligation of attending conferences. The Director added that during the budget sessions it was discussed that some Board members would attend this conference and others would attend the Spring Conference.

Secretary Totten asked if what the Director was saying was that the Board Members had what was needed to be certified. The Director responded yes.

The Director stated that Chair Wright, Secretary Totten and Member Hampton were registered for this Conference.

Chair Wright stated that those members would come back and share the information discussed to those that do not attend this conference and the next time those that attend will come back and share with those that do not attend that conference.

ITEM #12 – DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Municipal Election

The Director stated that the Candidate Filing for Municipal Elections will end on Friday, July 21st at 12:00 p.m. (noon). The following offices will 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

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Town of Stoneville: Mayor, 3 Council seats

Town of Wentworth: 3 Council seats

The Director went through the list of the individuals that had filed for office and informed the Board on how many individuals had filed for each office.

Events/Speaking Engagements

The Director informed the Board that on Thursday, July 27th at 6:00 p.m., she had been asked to speak at the Republican Women’s Group at the Republican Headquarter in Reidsville. She stated that this was the only speaking engagement that was coming up soon but there are others that have been scheduled for September. The Director informed the Board that she had prepared them calendars for July, August, September and October.

Videos and Podcasts

Please remember to check out the Rockingham County website under the Board of Elections tab and then go to Voter Information to check out the videos and podcasts. On the Campaign Finance page there is a video posted that the Brunswick County produced and shared with all 100 counties how an Overview of Campaign Finance works and it walks you through how to fill out the Campaign Finance forms.

ITEM #13 – CLOSED SESSION

Member Schoolfield moved, seconded by Member Cole to go into Closed Session in pursuant to (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)) and to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1)). The motion carried unanimously.

Member Schoolfield moved, seconded by Member Cole to go back into regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #14 – ADJOURNMENT

At 1:31 p.m. Member Cole moved, seconded by Member Hampton to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula P. Seamster, Director

Ophelia Wright, Chair