

MINUTES TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

August 5, 2016

The Transylvania County Board of Elections met in regular session on Friday, August 5, 2016, at 10:00 AM in the office of the Board of Elections, 221 South Gaston Street, Brevard. Chairman David P. Morrow presided. Others present were Board Secretary John K. Barker, Member Sara G. Champion, Director Tracie Fisher, Deputy Director Jeff Storey, Deputy Director Laura Owen, Aubrey Woodard, Jacquelyn Hovey, and Kathleen Barnes.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morrow. Board members considered the minutes from the July 1 and July 26, 2016 meetings. Ms. Champion moved to approve the July 1, 2016, as amended. The motion carried. Ms. Champion moved to approve the July 26, 2016, as presented. The motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the absentee meeting dates for the November 8, 2016, General Election. Mrs. Fisher presented the Board with the recommended dates (see attached). Mr. Barker moved to approve the dates recommended by Mrs. Fisher. The motion carried. Mrs. Fisher informed the Board about the 4th Circuit Court ruling regarding one-stop early voting, same-day registration, pre-registration of 16 and 17-year olds, out of precinct provisional voting, and voter photo ID. Mrs. Fisher explained that the office has received very little direction from the State Board of Elections at this point and recommended that the Board wait until after the State Board training conference on August 8 and 9 before making any decisions regarding one-stop early voting. The Board agreed to hold a special meeting on Friday, August 12, 2016, at 10 AM in the Board office to adopt the new one-stop implementation plan.

The Director and Deputy Director, Jeff Storey, presented a new website to the Board that will be ready for the public in September. The Board expressed their appreciation for Mr. Storey's expertise in website design and thanked him for his work.

The Director updated the Board on the status of the new building renovations and a projected move date. Mrs. Fisher, along with Mr. Barker, attended a meeting on Thursday, August 3, with those involved in the process. The Director conveyed the importance of having a definite answer as to whether the office would be relocated by mid-September as originally planned. Mrs. Fisher was assured that one-stop early voting and Election Day voting would be able to take place in the new facility. However, a definite answer could not be given as to whether or not the office would be able to move in September. The group decided to have another meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 2:30 PM in the large conference room of the Administration Building to give a definitive answer about the move date.

In other business, the Director presented the Board with a tentative agenda for the upcoming State Board training conference and it was decided that everyone would meet at the Board office on Sunday, August 7, to leave at 2 PM. Mrs. Fisher presented the Board with a press release from the Election Center regarding the graduation of Mrs. Fisher and Mr. Storey from the Professional Education Program sponsored by The Election Center. Chairman Morrow requested that the Director add the following statement from the Board to the press release: "The Board is fortunate to have two such highly educated election professionals serving the people of Transylvania County." Mrs. Fisher reviewed upcoming key dates with the Board regarding the election schedule. Mrs. Fisher informed the Board that the absentee by mail return envelope has been modified to ensure that the envelopes are postmarked and the size accommodates regular letter size postage, offering a cost savings to the voter. Mrs. Fisher will be ordering these modified envelopes to use for the General Election. Mrs. Fisher also informed the board that the state has approved the new site for Brevard 1 Precinct, and that Brevard College officials have signed an agreement regarding relocation of the Brevard 4 Precinct to the college campus.

The Board opened the floor for public comment. Jacquelyn Hovey expressed that the Democratic Party has begun thinking about registration drives in the area high schools prior to the registration deadline. Kathleen Barnes interjected that a registration drive is already scheduled for Rosman High School on September 20 and Brevard High School on September 22. Mrs. Fisher added that she had been contacted by a teacher at Rosman High School requesting a voting machine demonstration for the students that are eligible to vote and will coordinate the demonstration with the registration drive. Mrs. Fisher will contact Brevard High School to see if they would like a voting machine demonstration for their students as well. Mrs. Hovey also requested that the office notify candidates and campaign treasurers of the importance of gathering employment or former employment information when donations are made to a campaign. Mr. Woodard added that the State Board of Elections is checking past reports as well as present reports to impose fines for mistakes on reports. Mrs. Fisher will send a reminder to candidates and campaign

treasurers that she is available to check reports for errors before they are submitted to reduce the chance of a fine from the state. Mrs. Barnes encouraged the Board to adopt the same hours for the extended one-stop early voting period as the original plan to offer voters an additional Friday night for voting. Mrs. Barnes asked what the office is telling people that inquire about needing a photo ID to vote. Mrs. Fisher responded that the office has been instructed by the state to tell voters that they don't need a photo ID to vote. However, if they registered by mail and didn't submit the proper Help America Vote Act (H.A.V.A) identification, they may be required to present one at the time of voting.

There was no additional business for the Board's consideration. Ms. Champion moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



John K. Barker, Secretary

Approved by Board on: AUG 12, 2016



David P. Morrow, Chairman



Sara G. Champion, Member