

M I N U T E S  
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

March 2, 2017

The Transylvania County Board of Elections met in regular session on Thursday, March 2, 2017, at 10:00 AM in the Election Center, 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard. Chairman David P. Morrow presided. Others present were Member Sara G. Champion, Director Tracie Fisher, Deputy Director Jeff Storey, Deputy Director Laura Owen, Jackie Hovey, Kathleen Barnes, and Lee McMinn.

Chairman Morrow called the meeting to order. Board members considered the minutes from the February 2, 2017 meeting. Ms. Champion moved to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the memorandum of understanding between the Board of Elections and the County Commissioners. Mrs. Fisher informed the Board that the State Board of Elections does not recommend entering into a memorandum of understanding with the County Commissioners. Mrs. Fisher explained that the law is clear as to how the county is to fund and provide benefits for the Board of Elections staff.

The next item on the agenda was the budget for fiscal year 2017-2018. Mrs. Fisher explained to the Board the method she and the staff use to determine the budget for the office. The Board reviewed the voting equipment quote and requested that Mrs. Fisher ask for a quote that gives them an option closer to the equipment configuration currently used. The Director spoke with the County Manager, Jaime Laughter, regarding a rental fee for the community centers that are polling locations and the County Manager agreed to add additional money to the amount currently paid to the centers that are polling locations.

In other business, the Director informed the Board that a bill had been introduced that would call for a countywide election in November 2017. Mrs. Fisher added that she had already been in contact with the County Manager regarding a possible change in the upcoming budget.

Mrs. Fisher presented (see attached) the Board with information from a routine Geographic Information System (GIS) audit concerning Hannah Elizabeth De La Riva, a registered voter in Transylvania County, and her residence being in Henderson County. Mrs. Fisher explained that Ms. De La Riva registered to vote last year and according to the information that the office was given at the time, it was determined that she lived off Crab Creek Road in Transylvania County. However, upon further research it is evident that she lives just across the county line in Henderson County. Ms. Champion moved to remove Hannah Elizabeth De La Riva as a registered voter in Transylvania County, send a letter informing the voter of the error and a registration form to register in Henderson County. The motion passed.

Mrs. Fisher informed the Board that the County Manager has organized a focus group to compile a county meeting room use policy. This policy will be presented to the Commissioners and will include the Election Center conference rooms, Library's Rogow room and Connesstee meeting room, the Community Services Building conference room, the Administration Building Commissioners Chambers and conference rooms, and the Recreation Department multi-purpose rooms. The policy will outline how the areas may be used, when the areas may be used, and any fees that may apply.

Mrs. Fisher updated the Board on the North Carolina Directors of Elections conference that she and the staff attended in February. The staff learned that due to this past election year and all the ongoing litigation, expect things to continue to change on a regular basis. Mrs. Fisher informed the Board that she will be speaking at the upcoming VIZ program on March 7<sup>th</sup> regarding how the Election Center operates during an election and outside an election. Mrs. Fisher attended a meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup> conducted by the Institute of Government regarding engaging women in public service. Mrs. Fisher and Jeff Storey will be attending a District 1 meeting in Buncombe County on March 15<sup>th</sup> to learn about the ballot on demand process and converting to a paper ballot system. Mrs. Fisher reminded the Board that they would be attending the ES&S users meeting with the staff on March 21<sup>st</sup> in Buncombe County.

The Board opened the floor for public comment. Mrs. Barnes expressed her opposition to any fees being charged to use any county meeting spaces due to the fact that they were paid for by tax dollars.

There was no additional business for the Board's consideration. Mr. Morrow moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM. The next meeting of the Board will be held on April 6, 2017 at 10:00 AM in the Election Center located at, 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tracie Fisher*

Tracie Fisher, Director

Approved by Board on: 04-06-17

*David P. Morrow*

David P. Morrow, Chairman

*Sara G. Champion*

Sara G. Champion, Member