

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MEETING MINUTES

August 6, 2020

The scheduled meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Champion at 10 am on Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Present

Board Members:

Staff Members:

Chair: Sara Champion
Secretary: Lee McMinn
David Morrow
Pam Dashiell
Michael Wainwright*

Director: Jeff Storey
Deputy Director: Laura Owen

* Remotely via Zoom

Visitors: None

Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

The board was presented with the official minutes from previous meetings. **Pam Dashiell made a motion to approve the board meeting minutes from June 2, 2020 through July 23, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.**

Absentee Schedule

The director asked the board to consider adding additional absentee board meetings to the schedule due to the increased number of requests. The board agreed to add additional meetings on two Fridays. **Secretary McMinn moved to approve the proposed additions to the absentee schedule. The motion unanimously carried.**

Precinct Official Appointments

Director Storey updated the board on staffing precincts for the general election. **Secretary McMinn moved to appoint the precinct officials as presented in the Brevard #1, Brevard #2, Brevard #3, Brevard #4, Boyd, Cathey's Creek, Cedar Mountain, Dunn's Rock, Little River, Pisgah Forest, Rosman Eastatoe, and Williamson Creek precincts. The motion unanimously carried.**

Precinct Locations

The search for COVID-19 friendly space for the Brevard #3 and Brevard #4 precinct locations is still unresolved. County schools and Brevard College are not positive there will be sites available to conduct elections due to the need for additional classroom space.

DIRECTOR UPDATES

Absentee Ballots via email

Director Storey addressed concerns the board had with overseas absentee voting. The director discussed the designated absentee email address with county IT and that overseas traffic will be allowed to our address for absentee requests and correspondence. It will still go through virus scans and any quarantines will be monitored.

Office Help

The growing number of absentee requests, phone calls, and in-person traffic has caused a need to bring temporary staff in earlier than scheduled. Jacolyn Campbell, Rachel Hall, Lauren Weed, Madeline Dierauf will begin this month. Karen Henderson will be available September 1.

Job Posting

Qualified applications for the vacant deputy director position have been slim. The director is preparing for the possibility the job may not be filled prior to the election.

Training Dates

Director Storey will begin having semi-monthly virtual meetings with precinct officials to keep them updated and to limit in-person visits. Meetings will be moved to weekly starting in October. Training for experienced workers will be online while brand new workers will be required to sign up for in-person training.

Precinct Locations - Deadlines

The director said a decision on polling sites should be made before the end of the month.

Letter to Bria Bailey

The board reviewed and approved a letter to be sent to Bria Bailey congratulating her on her new role in Buncombe County and to recognize her contributions to the Transylvania County Board of Elections during her time as the deputy director of voting systems.

Board Comments

The board asked about multi-partisan assistance teams. Director Storey said guidance is still needed from the State Board regarding protocols, but volunteers are being recruited for board approval. There were no further comments.

On a motion by Chair Champion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 am. The next scheduled meeting will be at 10 am on September 3, 2020, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Respectfully submitted,

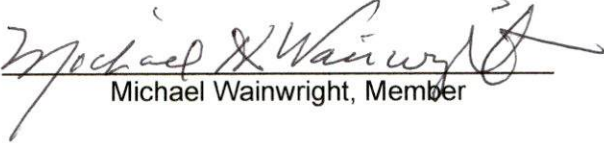


Lee McMinn, Secretary


Sara G. Champion, Chair


David P. Morrow, Member

Pam Dashiell, Member


Michael Wainwright, Member

Approved by Board on: 12.3.20