

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ABSENTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2021

The scheduled meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Champion at 5 pm on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Present

Board Members:

Staff Members:

Chair: Sara Champion
Secretary: Lee McMinn
Sandra Watson

Director: Jeff Storey
Deputy Director: Laura Owen
Deputy Director: Julie Dennis

Visitors: Judith West

Review and Approval of Agenda

Chair Champion asked for review of the agenda. **Secretary McMinn made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

Appointment of Precinct Official Assistants

The director presented the board with precinct assistants to appoint for the Municipal Election: one replacement for a Rosman assistant, and an additional assistant in Brevard #3 and Pisgah Forest. **Secretary McMinn made a motion to approve the precinct assistants as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

Review and Approval of One Stop Applications

Director Storey informed the board there are 359 absentee one stop applications that have processed between October 14 and October 18, 2021. **Member Watson made a motion to approve the applications as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Champion asked the director about a BallotTrax message received by an early voter that had misspellings. Director Storey had contacted the State Board and the vendor has verified the information going out is spelled correctly. The director asked the chair if the voter could send a screenshot of the message received to verify the source.

The board asked questions regarding the cure process and absentee by mail procedures.

Review and Approval of Received Absentee Ballots

Deputy Director Owen informed the board 1 ballot was spoiled this week due to missing signature. A ballot was reissued with a new CIV number and mailed to the voter.

Deputy Director Owen presented the board with 12 CIV absentee applications to consider and approve. Absentee envelopes were provided sequentially by how they appear on the CIV absentee list. Secretary McMinn (D) and Member Watson (R). reviewed Page 1.

Secretary McMinn made the motion to approve page 1. The motion unanimously carried.

Approved: 12 CIV

Approved: 359 OS Applications (October 14, 2021 - October 18, 2021)

DIRECTOR UPDATES

Director Storey said early voting has been averaging around 100 voters a day. There hasn't been a contested mayor race since 1997 so turnout data is in uncharted waters.

The director mentioned there were questions from the public regarding masks. While not required, masks are encouraged. The State Board has encouraged mask usage for workers but left it to the discretion of county boards. At early voting, the plexiglass shields are in place again and workers will wear masks when taking voters to the machines and at curbside. Social distancing is also maintained.

Director Storey commented OVRD (Onsite Voter Registration Database) training started this week. Classes have been limited to 4 in-person to allow for social distancing. Virtual training will also be available on the training website.

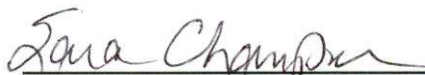
BOARD COMMENTS


Chair Champion asked if there were any issues with electioneering outside. The director indicated on the first day there were some tensions when a candidate tent was placed in the parking lot, but it was moved to the side since parking was limited.

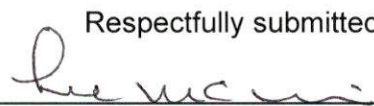
Member Watson asked if requests were still coming in. The director thought there were at least 74 requests at the time. Member Watson asked what the deadline was to request a ballot. October 26 for requests unless for medical reasons.

There were no further board or public comments.

On a motion by Secretary McMinn, the meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM. The next scheduled meeting will be at 5 pm on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.


Sara G. Champion, Chair


Sandra E. Watson, Member

Respectfully submitted,

Lee McMinn, Secretary


Wendy Warwick, Member

Approved by Board on: 10/26/2021