

**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
February 6, 2024

Chair Champion called the meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections to order at 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 6, 2024, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

**Attendance**

**Board Members:**

**Staff Members:**

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Chair: Sara Champion	Director: Jeff Storey
Secretary: Judith West	Deputy Director: Laura Owen
Wendy Warwick	
Nona Walker	

Visitors: None

**Review and Approval of Agenda**

**On a motion by Member West, the board approved the agenda 4-0.**

**Review and Approval of Previous Minutes**

The board reviewed minutes for the previous board meetings. **On a motion by Member Warwick the minutes for January 11, 2024 was approved 4-0. On a motion by Member West, the minutes for January 30, 2024 was approved 4-0.**

**Review and Approval of Received Absentee Ballots**

Deputy Director Owen presented the board with 4 CIV absentee applications to consider and approve. **Member West made the motion to approve the executed absentee ballots. The motion carried 4-0.**

Approved: 4 CIV

**Precinct Official Appointments and Modifications**

Director Storey provided the suggested replacement for the TC7 chief judge vacancy. **On a motion by Member Warwick, Rodney Holcomb was appointed 4-0 (attached).**

**Consideration of 2024G Early Voting sites**

The board discussion centered around the number of sites to open for the general election. Historically, the board approved two early voting sites for the 2016 and 2020 general elections. The board evaluated having only one early voting site and concluded that would be insufficient. Three early voting sites were discussed amongst the board with consideration to costs and turnout by precinct data for the 2016 and 2020 general elections. Member West reiterated a previous question, "What problem are we trying to solve?". Two locations for the general election have been more than adequate for voter traffic. **Member West made a motion to**

approve two early voting sites for the budget. Chair Champion asked the board to consider deferring a vote until all board members were present. The Board agreed and the motion was withdrawn.

**Consideration of FY 24-25 Budget**

The board reviewed the budget recommendations for FY 24-25 with no modifications pending a decision on the early voting site numbers.

**DIRECTOR UPDATES**

Director Storey stated the ExpressVote printers were delivered last Friday and will be installed and tested in time for early voting. The header will include the early voting number ( previously known as the absentee number ) for each ballot along with precinct and ballot style.

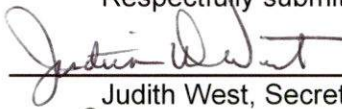
The director and board members who attended the state conference provided feedback. Topics included legal updates, emergency planning, and breakout sessions for photo ID, campaign finance and other various topics. Director Storey added since early voting is no longer considered an absentee ballot, the State Board of Elections has indicated early voting ballots can no longer be tabulated by the county boards prior to the closing of polls on Election Day. This will need to be communicated to the political parties and candidates who are accustomed to having those results at 7:30 p.m.

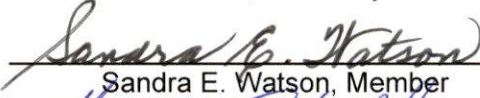
Based on guidance from the State Board of Elections, local county boards should consider plans of action for inclement weather closures issued by local and county governments during the early voting period. The local county boards of elections are the authoritative body for early voting site closures. The director will draft a proposal for board approval.

Director Storey provided an overview of the tabletop exercises that took place with local and state emergency services personnel. The exercises presented an opportunity for sharing and learning procedures that affect the conduct of elections in emergency situations and the roles each agency plays in response to a given situation.

**On a motion by Member West, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.** The next scheduled meeting will be at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712 to review absentee ballots and conduct board business.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Judith West, Secretary

  
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Sandra E. Watson, Member

  
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Nona Walker, Member

  
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Sara G. Champion, Chair

  
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Wendy Warwick, Member

Approved by Board on: 4-23-24