

COUNTY OF CARTERET BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1702 Live Oak Street, Beaufort, NC 28516
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes, January 4, 2023
9:00AM

I. Meeting Called to Order

Chair Susan Cuthrell called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

Board Members Present: Chair Susan Cuthrell, Secretary Jeanette Deese, Member Dale Gillikin, Member Gerald Godette, and Member Lucia Bond

Staff Members Present: Director Caitlin Sabadish, Deputy Director Margot Burke

Others Present: Barbara Smith; Carteret County Votes Count Committee (CCVC), Lynn Carraway; CCVC

II. Approval of Agenda

Member Gillikin made a motion to approve the January 4, 2023 regular meeting agenda as presented. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Lynn Carraway thanked staff for assisting her and Carteret County Votes Count in taking video of the precinct poll tapes from the November 8, 2022 General Election. Lynn noted that staff was very helpful and she is working on editing the videos to send off where numbers will be compiled and compared by an outside organization.

Barbara Smith asked for a status update on the two voters that voted twice in the 2022 General Election. Director Sabadish responded that one has been turned over to the District Attorney and she does not have an update on the other voter. Director Sabadish noted that she will not be getting updates regarding the cases, but the information is public record. Barbara Smith also asked what the margin of error is for each county during canvass. Director Sabadish recommended she reach out to the State Board of Elections for more information about the State's canvass procedures. Barbara Smith also asked if we discussed the poll tape incidents with the Chief Judges and Judges. Director Sabadish noted that the topic was discussed with the Chief Judges and Judges and will be reiterated in the next training.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the December 7, 2022 Regular Meeting and December 7, 2022 Closed Session Meeting were presented for Board approval. Member Gillikin made a motion to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Member Bond seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Director's Report

a. Elections Specialist position hiring update

Director Sabadish provided the Board with a copy of the Elections Specialist job description that was approved by the Human Resources (HR) Department and noted that the job should be posted on the County Government job site by HR on January 4, 2023. Director Sabadish will also forward the job posting to the State Board of Elections for them to post on their website and she will also advertise on the NCADE listserv. Director Sabadish also provided the Board with a list of questions to ask and a list of questions not to ask when interviewing potential candidates. Director Sabadish said that she would keep the Board updated on applications received and hopes to fill the vacant position by March, 2023.

VI. Board Comments

Chair Cuthrell opened the floor for Board comments. No formal action was required by the Board.

Member Godette

Member Godette thanked the staff for their hard work, thanked the public for their interest, and thanked the Board for their positive attitude.

Member Gillikin

Member Gillikin wished everyone a Happy New Year and noted that 2023 should be a fairly quiet year. Member Gillikin mentioned that she looks forward to the hiring process and encouraged staff to ask the Board and HR questions if needed.

Member Bond

Member Bond wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked the staff for all of their hard work. Member Bond noted that she is looking forward to conducting the hiring process and getting the vacant Elections Specialist position filled.

Secretary Deese

Secretary Deese expressed that she was impressed with the increase in voter registration numbers after the mid-term general election and is happy that more county residents are getting involved in the election process and registering to vote. Secretary Deese noted that she is looking forward to a quieter year and getting the budget underway. Secretary Deese commented that all county department head salaries were listed on the front page of the Carteret County News Times paper in December and that she was happy to see that the Elections Director had a more complete salary compared to the past relationship with other departments. Secretary Deese noted that she encourages this growth within the department and also the continued support from the County.

Chair Cuthrell

Chair Cuthrell reiterated the other board members' comments and thanked the staff for their hard work. Chair Cuthrell noted that the next regular board meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2023 at 9:00AM.

VII. Adjournment

Secretary Deese made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Member Gillikin and the motion was passed unanimously.

Susan Cuthrell, Chair

Jeanette Deese, Secretary

Dale Gillikin, Member

Gerald Godette, Member

Lucia Bond, Member