

COUNTY OF CARTERET BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1702 Live Oak Street, Beaufort, NC 28516
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes, January 5, 2022
9:00AM

I. Meeting Called to Order

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

Board Members Present: Chair Susan Cuthrell, Vice Chair Marjorie Holland, Secretary Jeanette Deese, Member Dale Gillikin, and Member Gerald Godette

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

Others Present: Lynn Caraway; citizen, Barbara Smith; citizen

II. Approval of Agenda

Member Gillikin made a motion to approve the January 5, 2022 regular meeting agenda. Vice Chair Holland seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Barbara Smith and Lynn Caraway introduced themselves and Barbara Smith inquired about the ballot retention period for the 2020 Election. Director Sabadish explained that the retention period in accordance with G.S. 163 Article 15A, G.S. 163-234(9), and 08 NCAC 10B .0106 requires ballots to be kept for a minimum of twenty-two (22) months after certification of an election concerning a primary, general, or special election involving federal offices. Director Sabadish also explained that all records from every election are retained on site under constant surveillance and is only accessible by Board of Elections staff.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Director Sabadish presented the minutes from the December 1, 2021 Regular Meeting for approval. Member Gillikin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Amend the 2022 Regular Meeting Schedule

Director Sabadish presented the amended 2022 Regular Meeting schedule to the Board for approval after finding out the March, 2022 Primary Election would be delayed until May, 2022. The Carteret County Board of Elections will hold their regular monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at 9:00AM, unless otherwise noted and advertised on the County website. Secretary Deese

made a motion to approve the 2022 Regular Meeting schedule as amended. Vice Chair Holland seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Evaluation of precincts as a result of redistricting

Director Sabadish presented data showing population changes in each precinct after redistricting changes had been made. Data sets from November 17, 2021 (before redistricting changes were made) and from December 21, 2021 (after redistricting changes were made) were compared to assess any population changes that occurred as a result of local redistricting. After analyzing the data, Director Sabadish found that the increases or decreases in population were minimal and could be contributed to the fluctuation of voter registration. Director Sabadish recommended that the changes in data do not justify or support any modifications of precinct jurisdictions. The Board concurred with these findings and no formal action was required by the Board.

VII. Director's Report

a. Delayed Primary Election, Update

Director Sabadish explained that Supreme Court postponed the March, 2022 Primary Election until May, 2022 due to lawsuits concerning Statewide redistricting changes. With this, a new One-Stop plan will need to be approved for the May, 2022 Primary Election and the Board will need to take formal action to approve a new plan in February, 2022. Secretary Deese expressed her concerns about precinct official recruitment in the Summer months and staffing for the May, 2022 Primary. Deputy Director Burke assured the Board that contact has already been made with the precinct officials for planning purposes and additional correspondence for precinct official training will be sent out soon. Deputy Director Burke also confirmed that precinct official recruitment is ongoing and she is confident that we will have enough precinct officials to staff the election.

b. Candidate Filing, Update

Director Sabadish reiterated that candidate filing for the 2022 Primary Election has been suspended until further notice by N.C. Supreme Court Order No. 413P21 after three (3) days of filing. At this time dates for the new filing period have not been set and we are unsure if the filing period will continue where it left off, or begin new to include a full filing period. Any candidate whose filing has been accepted by the State Board of Elections or any county board of elections, that candidate "will be deemed to have filed for the same office" in the May primary, subject to any court rulings that could impact that candidate's eligibility, according to the Supreme Court order. Any candidate that wishes to withdraw their notice of candidacy will have the opportunity to do so when the filing period reopens and any individual who withdraws their candidacy is free to file

for any other office for which they are eligible during the reopened filing period. Director Sabadish provided the Board with the list of candidates who have filing for office up to this point and will keep the Board updated as she gets additional information.

c. Precinct Official, Update

Deputy Director Burke explained that correspondence will be sent to the precinct officials the first or second week of March, as training will begin the end of March. A letter and a card will be sent out to gauge precinct official interest and inform them of training sign ups.

d. List of Important Dates, Update

Director Sabadish presented an updated list of important dates to the Board to accommodate the delayed 2022 primary election and noted that the list is subject to change and will be updated mid-year.

VIII. 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 great work and wished everyone a happy new year.

Secretary Deese

Secretary Deese thanked staff for their hard work and expressed her appreciation.

Dale Gillikin

Member Gillikin thanked the staff for their hard work and noted that there is a slow increase in voter registration numbers.

Vice Chair Holland

Vice Chair Holland thanked staff for their hard work. She also noted that experienced precinct officials should present topics during training and encouraged staff to introduce other speakers during the training sessions. Staff agreed that this would be a benefit and improvement to the training sessions and agreed to reach out to the precinct officials.

Chair Cuthrell

Chair Cuthrell thanked staff and expressed her hope that some experienced precinct officials will be interested in getting involved with assisting to teach the training classes.

IX. Adjournment

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

Susan Cuthrell, Chair

Marjorie Holland, Vice Chair

Jeanette Deese, Secretary

Dale Gillikin, Member

Gerald Godette, Member