

COUNTY OF CARTERET BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1702 Live Oak Street, Beaufort, NC 28516
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes, June 7, 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 Lucia Bond, and Member Gerald Godette (FaceTime)

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

Others Present: Norma Hall; League of Women Voters (LWV), Carol Geer; LWV

II. Approval of Agenda

Member Gillikin made a motion to approve the June 7, 2023 regular meeting agenda as presented. Member Bond seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Carol Geer mentioned that the League of Women Voters will be conducting a public outreach event on September 21, 2023 in conjunction with Democracy NC and the Carteret County Community College to educate voters on the new laws and voting requirements ahead of the November, 2023 Municipal Election. Director Sabadish agreed to be a speaker at the event.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 3, 2023 Regular Meeting and minutes from the May 3, 2023 Closed Session Meeting were presented for Board approval. Member Gillikin made a motion to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Chair Cuthrell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Director's Report

a. FY23-24 Budget Update

- i. Director Sabadish highlighted some key points from the Board of Commissioners June 5, 2023 meeting concerning the Board of Elections FY 23-24 Budget. As of June 5, 2023, the Board of Elections recommended budget is approximately \$64,000.00 less than the original requested budget and is due to the precinct official pay increases not being recommended. The Board agreed to reach out to the Board of Commissioners to advocate for the precinct official raises and express the need for the increase before the 2024 Presidential Primary Election.

b. Conference Travel

- i. Director Sabadish explained that she registered each Board Member and staff member for the August Conference and booked hotel rooms accordingly. She asked the Board if they would prefer to fly or drive to the NCSBE Conference in Concord, NC as flights were a comparable price to

the current mileage rate. All Board Members said that they would prefer to drive and Chair Cuthrell, Member Bond, and Member Godette noted that they would be driving together. Director Sabadish said that she would make the travel arrangements accordingly.

c. Public Education

- i. Director Sabadish noted that she will be sending out an email to each municipality offering a presentation that outlines election processes and procedures as well as details about the 2023 Municipal Election specific to each municipality. Director Sabadish is looking to present to each municipality between June and September and hopes that this public outreach effort will educate and encourage voters to get involved.

d. Board Member Appointments June 27, 2023

- i. Director Sabadish noted that the State Board will be making County Board Member appointments at their meeting on June 27, 2023. At this point she has not received a list of nominations, but if she does she will send it to the Board.

e. Board Member Oath to be taken July 18, 2023

- i. Director Sabadish noted that the newly appointment Board Members will be required to take their oath of office on July 18, 2023 and will be having a special meeting at noon. Director Sabadish said that she will be asking the Clerk of Court, Ken Raper, to administer the oaths to the Board.

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 and the Board for their continued hard work and noted that although we may face challenges with the adoption and implementation of the new legislative changes we will get through it by working together.

Member Bond

Member Bond expressed her full support for the public outreach effort in speaking to each of the municipalities about voting procedures and legislative changes. Member Bond also highlighted that this will be especially beneficial in conjunction with the efforts put forth by the League of Women Voters and Democracy NC. The repetition and sharing of information will educate the public and reduce the confusion around voting. Member Bond also expressed her support for reaching out to the Board of Commissioners concerning the raises for our Precinct Officials and hopes that our persistence will pay off.

Secretary Deese

Secretary Deese echoed Member Bond's comments and thanked the staff.

Member Gillikin

Member Gillikin echoed Member Bond’s comments and hopes that the State Board of Elections will also work to educate the public surrounding the new voting laws and hopes that some best practices will be shared at the NCSBE conference in August that we can build off of at the county level.

Chair Cuthrell

Chair Cuthrell echoed the other Board Members’ comments and noted that new State Board Members have been appointed to the State Board of Elections and shared positive comments on the new members and hopes that they will be beneficial to State Board operations. Chair Cuthrell thanked the staff for their hard work and noted that the next regular board meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2023 at 9:00AM.

VII. Adjournment

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

Susan Cuthrell, Chair

Jeanette Deese, Secretary

Dale Gillikin, Member

Lucia Bond, Member

Gerald Godette, Member