

COUNTY OF CARTERET BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1702 Live Oak Street, Beaufort, NC 28516
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes, July 12, 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

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

Others Present: Carol Geer; League of Women Voters (LWV), Wanda Fowler; GOP Chair, Barbara Smith; citizen, Lynn Caraway; citizen, Michael Struempf; citizen

II. Approval of Agenda

Secretary Deese made a motion to approve the July 12, 2023 regular meeting agenda as presented. Member Bond seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Carol Geer asked whether or not the County Board of Elections will have the capability to print photo ID's before the November, 2023 election. Director Sabadish responded that it is the goal of the County and the State Board of Elections to provide this service to citizens, however procedural guidance has yet to be distributed.

Wanda Fowler complimented the staff on their hard work and professionalism and noted that she looks forward to working with the Board of Elections on precinct official appointments and assisting with precinct official recruitment as the Chair of the Carteret County Republican Party.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the June 7, 2023 Regular Meeting were presented for Board approval. Member Gillikin made a motion to approve the June 7, 2023 minutes as presented. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Director's Report

a. Precinct Official Appointment Recommendations

- i. Director Sabadish and Deputy Director Burke provided the Board with a list of recommendations of precinct officials to serve as precinct Chief Judges and Judges for an appointed two-year term in accordance with G.S. 163-41. Deputy Director Burke informed the Board that she is working on a letter to accompany the list of recommended appointments to send to each party Chair. Secretary Deese asked that in the letter staff include the

requirements and regulations related to Chief Judge and Judge appointments.

b. FY23-24 Budget Update

- i. Director Sabadish explained that the FY23-24 budget has been approved by the commissioners and staff are working on getting contracts approved for the folder and tabber machines and the texting service in hopes of having these services in place by October, 2023 and ready for deployment in the municipal election.

c. Candidate Filing Update

- i. Director Sabadish commented that candidate filing was running smoothly and the Board of Elections had filed over forty candidates for municipal seats. Director Sabadish noted that candidate filing for the Municipal Election will continue during normal business hours until July 21, 2023 at noon.

d. Public Outreach/Education Update

- i. Director Sabadish noted that the public outreach effort is going well and she has presented to the Town of Peletier, the Town of Newport, Town of Cape Carteret, and the Town of Emerald Isle. Director Sabadish noted some of the highlights from the meetings and explained that she will be presenting to the Town of Bogue, the Town of Beaufort, the Town of Atlantic Beach, and the Town of Cedar Point in the coming weeks.

VI. Board Comments

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

Member Gillikin

Member Gillikin expressed that the Board of Elections is doing everything that they can to assist and educate the public. Member Gillikin thanked the public for their attendance, thanked the staff for their hard work, and wished Deputy Director Burke a happy five-year anniversary.

Secretary Deese

Secretary Deese thanked and commended the staff for their hard work and public outreach efforts. Secretary Deese said that she is looking forward to taking the oath of office next week and continuing to serve on the Board of Elections. Secretary Deese reiterated to the public that public comment is not intended for questions or dialogue. If members of the public have specific questions that should be address outside of the formal meeting.

Member Godette

Member Godette thanked the staff and the Board for their continued hard work and hopes that the municipal outreach efforts will increase voter turnout in the 2023 municipal election.

Member Bond

Member Bond thanked Deputy Director Burke for her work on the precinct official appointment recommendations and thanked Director Sabadish for her work on the public education effort.

Chair Cuthrell

Chair Cuthrell echoed the other Board Members' comments and noted that the Board and staff are doing the best that they can to educate and facilitate the election process. Chair Cuthrell is looking forward to the training and implementation of the new election processes this November.

VII. Adjournment

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

Susan Cuthrell, Chair

Jeanette Deese, Secretary

Dale Gillikin, Member

Lucia Bond, Member

Gerald Godette, Member