

COUNTY OF CARTERET BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1702 Live Oak Street, Beaufort, NC 28516
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes, July 14, 2021
9:00 AM

I. Meeting Called to Order

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

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

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

Others Present: Jackie Starkey; News Times

II. Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair Deese made a motion to approve the July 14, 2021 regular meeting agenda. Secretary Gillikin seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

No comments were made by the public.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Director Sabadish presented the minutes from the June 2, 2021 Regular Meeting for approval. Member Godette made a motion to approve the June 2, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes. Vice Chair Deese seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Director's Report

a. Candidate Filing Update

Director Sabadish gave the Board an update on the current candidate filing period and reported no issues. Director Sabadish provided the Board with the most updated list of filed candidates and a list of all municipal seats up for reelection in November, 2021.

b. Campaign Finance Update

Director Sabadish provided the Board with an update on the campaign finance in-house audit process. Director Sabadish informed the Board that all campaign finance report information was up to date and that a spreadsheet will be post on the county website for all active campaigns and seated candidates for the public to view. A disclosure statement will be posted on the website to direct members of the public to the Board of Elections office to view specific reports and campaign

documents for local candidates. A link will also be posted on the county website for all local candidates that file electronically.

c. August Conference Registration

Director Sabadish reiterated that the State Board of Elections conference will be held virtually on August 2, 2021, August 3, 2021, and August 4, 2021. All five (5) Board members confirmed their attendance for all three (3) days and Director Sabadish confirmed that she would take care of the registration for each Board member individually.

d. August 17, 2021 Precinct Official Appointment Update

Director Sabadish provided the most up to date Chief Judge and Judge recommendation list to the Board for their review and advised that the list would be sent to the political parties for their review by the end of the week. The Board established that the meeting to appoint the Chief Judges and Judges of each precinct would take place on August 17, 2021 at 9:00AM at the Board of Elections office in accordance with GS 163-41.

e. Preliminary Discussion of One-Stop Plans

Director Sabadish proposed that only two (2) of the typical three (3) sites be open for One-Stop early voting for the November, 2021 Municipal Election due to low voter turnout at the Fort Benjamin site. These sites included the Board of Elections Office located in Beaufort and the Western Park location in Cape Carteret. The Board preliminarily discussed the proposition and ultimately determined that all three (3) sites, including the Board of Elections office in Beaufort, Fort Benjamin Park and Recreation Center in Newport, and Western Park and Recreation Center in Cedar Point, should be open for early voting to provide as much voting opportunity as possible for the residents of Carteret County. The Board plans to take official action to approve the One-Stop plan at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

f. Preliminary Discussion of Temporary Municipal Precinct Transfers

Director Sabadish proposed the temporary merge of municipal precincts for the 2021 municipal election to include transferring voters from the North River precinct to the Beaufort One (1) precinct, voters from the Beaufort Two (2) precinct to the Beaufort One (1) precinct, voters from the Newport Two (2) precinct to the Newport One (1) precinct, voters from the Wildwood precinct in the Morehead City municipality to the Morehead Four (4) precinct, and voters from the Wildwood precinct in the Newport municipality to the Newport One (1) precinct due to low voter turnout and difficulties staffing each precinct. Overall the Board supported these temporary merges for the 2021 Municipal Election and plans to take formal action at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

VI. Board Comments

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

Member Holland

Member Holland reiterated the need to open three (3) one-stop sites; one at the west end of the county, one in the middle of the county, and one at the east end of the county.

Vice Chair Deese

Vice Chair Deese inquired about the November Election training dates and asked that the Board be provided with the dates at the next regular meeting.

Member Godette

Member Godette reiterated his concerns about the temporary merge of the municipal precincts for the 2021 November Election including that all precincts for the municipal election should remain open and separate. Member Godette closed by thanking the staff for their hard work.

Chair Cuthrell

Chair Cuthrell expressed her appreciation for the staff and their hard work. Chair Cuthrell read an email that she received from a concerned citizen to the staff and Board. The citizen was concerned about staff and precinct official interacting with the public in regard to COVID19 and asked that anyone employed with the Board of Elections be either vaccinated or willing to wear gloves and a mask when they interact with the public. Chair Cuthrell stated that she understands the voter's concerns but does not believe that the Board can require anyone employed with the Board of Elections to get vaccinated. Chair Cuthrell asked that all staff follow the CDC guidelines when interacting with the public and other staff members.

Secretary Gillikin

Secretary Gillikin complemented Director Sabadish on her organization of the complex Board meeting packet and appreciated the additional supporting documentation. Secretary Gillikin inquired about the Board Member certification process and staff agreed to get clarification on the requirements.

VII. Closed Session in accordance with GS 143-318.11 (1) for the purpose of discussing personnel

Secretary Gillikin made a motion to go into closed session in accordance with GS 143-318.11 (1) for the purpose of discussion personnel. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Return to Open Session

Secretary Gillikin made a motion to return to open session. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. Adjournment

Vice Chair Deese made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Chair Cuthrell and the motion was passed unanimously.

Susan Cuthrell, Chair

Jeanette Deese, Vice Chair

Dale Gillikin, Secretary

Marjorie Holland, Member

Gerald Godette, Member