

COUNTY OF CARTERET BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1702 Live Oak Street, Beaufort, NC 28516
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes, October 4, 2022
5:00PM

I. Meeting Called to Order

Chair Susan Cuthrell called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

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), Kathy Leary; CCVC, Walter Steele; CCVC, Ralph Hall; LWV, Norma Hall; LWV, Yolanda Lozano; citizen, Lori Nash; citizen, Martha Kenworthy; citizen, Brandy Orth; citizen.

II. Approval of Agenda

Secretary Deese made a motion to approve the October 4, 2022 regular meeting agenda as amended to include the North River Precinct under item VI. Member Bond seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Norma Hall expressed her gratitude to the Board and Staff for their support in the League of Women Voters public outreach effort. The presentation on voting presented clear and detailed information regarding the voting process and mentioned that the recording of the presentation will be available on the League of Women Voters website.

Walter Steele asked for the statute regarding taking a picture of or recording the tabulation. Director Sabadish asked for additional information regarding this topic and would provide materials when given more information.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the September 7, 2022 Regular Meeting and the September 7, 2022 Closed Session Meeting were presented for approval. Member Bond made a motion to approve the September 7, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes and the September 7, 2022 Closed Session minutes as presented. Secretary Deese seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

V. November, 2020 Record Retention Period

Several requests from members of the public were received to retain the records from the November 3, 2020 election beyond the records retention period outline by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. The records retention period for the November, 2020 documents expired on September 29, 2022 which was twenty-two (22) months after the State Board of Elections Canvass due to the election involving Federal contests. After much discussion, Secretary Deese made

a motion to keep the records from the November 3, 2020 election until September, 2023. No members seconded this motion. Member Bond made a motion to proceed with the purge of the November 3, 2020 documents in accordance with the records retention policies. Member Godette seconded this motion. Member Bond, Member Godette, and Chair Cuthrell voted to support the motion made by Member Bond. Secretary Deese voted nay and Member Gillikin abstained. If a council member persists in abstaining without being excused, G.S. 160A-75 directs that the member be counted as voting yes. The motion carried four (4) to one (1). Director Sabadish agreed to schedule the purge of the November 3, 2020 election documents as directed by the Board.

VI. Chief Judge Appointments: Broad Creek, Bogue, North River

Chief Judge appointments at the Broad Creek, Bogue, and North River precincts were required due to previously appointed Chief Judges being unable to work. Secretary Deese made a motion to appoint Jan Dunn to be the Chief Judge at the Bogue precinct, Michael D'Andrea to be the Chief Judge at the Bogue Precinct, and Juanita George to be the Chief Judge at the North River Precinct to serve the remainder of the unexpired term of appointment as recommended by staff. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Director's Report

a. Public Notices: Newport 2 Update

- i. Director Sabadish noted that verification cards have been mailed out ahead of the October 7, 2022 deadline to all registered voters in the Newport 2 precinct notifying them of the permanent precinct relocation from the Holly Springs Church to the Sanctuary Church. Notice of this permanent precinct change was also posted at the office, at the courthouse, in the newspaper, and on the county website.

b. Precinct Official Update

- i. Director Sabadish gave the Board the precinct official training dates and a copy of the training manual. Director Sabadish noted that roughly one hundred eighty (180) precinct officials signed up for training and the election should be adequately staffed. Deputy Director Burke is working to complete the Election Day schedule and is still looking for more Democrats to sign up to work for future elections. Chair Cuthrell said that she would talk with the party to try to increase recruiting efforts.

VIII. Board Comments

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

Member Bond

Member Bond expressed her appreciation for the staff and their efforts to educate the public.

Secretary Deese

Secretary Deese thanked Director Sabadish for a job well done on the public outreach presentation and noted that it should be shared with the precinct officials and other County staff. Secretary Deese also commented on Walter Steele's concerns and recommended that all Chief Judges read off the results tape at each precinct after the polls are closed on election night. Staff agreed to instruct the Chief Judges at each precinct to read off the results tapes for each contest.

Member Godette

Member Godette expressed his appreciation for the staff and the public for their interest in the election process.

Chair Cuthrell

Chair Cuthrell thanked Director Sabadish for doing a great job on the public outreach presentation and also thanked the staff for their hard work and diligence.

IX. Logic and Accuracy Testing

The five (5) member bi-partisan Board of Elections performed logic and accuracy testing on the Beaufort 2, Mill Creek, Wiregrass/Harlowe, Beaufort 1, and Broad Creek DS200 tabulators to be used on Election Day. Each machine was tested for logic and accuracy and test ballots were fed into each machine. The tapes from the test were printed, verified, and signed by the Board members. No formal action was required by the Board.

X. Adjournment

Member Bond 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

Jeanette Deese, Secretary

Dale Gillikin, Member

Gerald Godette, Member

Lucia Bond, Member