

September 13, 2021, 3:00 p.m. (Regular meeting)

Present: Katherine Horne – Chairman, David McPherson– Secretary, Bonita Blakney – Member, Brenda Ebron-Member and Carla Strickland –Director

Absent: Tucker Ward– Member

The meeting was called to order. Kay Horne-Chairman, David McPherson–Secretary, Bonita Blakney – Member, Brenda Ebron-Member, were present and Mr. Ward-was absent. Mrs. Inman gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The next item was the approval of the agenda. Mrs. Blakney made a motion to approve the Agenda as written, Mr. McPherson second, Mrs. Ebron, And Mrs. Horne concurred.

The next item on the agenda was public comments. Ms. Doris Strickland of 105 Forest Edge Circle., Apt 1A, Tabor City NC 28463. Ms. Strickland commented on the removed voters report advising that there were too many merged duplicates. She advised that she was not sure if this was sloppy record keeping or if this was intentional.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of August 23, 2021 minutes. Mr. McPherson made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Mrs. Blakney second Mrs. Horne, and Mrs. Ebron concurred.

The next item on the agenda, the Director advised on the appointed Precinct officials that did not accept their appointments. No action was taken.

The next item on the agenda, the Director requested dates for the Chief Judges and Judges oaths. After discussion on the same, Mr. McPherson made a motion to have Jesse Hill, Clerk to Superior Court to give the oaths for a two year term to the Precinct officials on September 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbus County Courthouse, Mrs. Ebron second, Mrs. Blakney and Mrs. Horne concurred.

The next item on the agenda the Director reminded Board members of the Acceptance testing to take place on September 14, 2021 at 12:00 noon. No Action was taken.

The next item on the agenda the Director provided a copy of the Municipal Election Notice. After reviewing the same, Mrs. Ebron made a motion to approve the notice, Mr. McPherson second, Mrs. Blakney and Mrs. Horne concurred.

The next item on the agenda the Director requested dates for the one-stop and Election Day Training. After discussion Mrs. Ebron made a motion to conduct the one-stop training on September 30th, 2021 and the Election day training on October 5th and 7th, 2021, Mr. McPherson second, Mrs. Blakney and Mrs. Horne concurred.

The next item on the agenda was an anonymous letter sent to the Director. She advised that due to the letter not being signed and no return address provided the Challenge to a voter could not be addressed.

Post Office Box 37
Whiteville, NC 28472
Attention: Carla Strickland, Director
Columbus County Board of Elections

I am writing to inform you that an individual by the name of **Michelle Denise Flowers** is illegally registered and voting in Columbus County under the address at 105 Joyner Street in Chadbouri. Ms. Flowers has illegally used the address for over a decade but has never lived physically in the residence at all - the aforementioned address is solely occupied by her elderly mother Doris Ann Davis.

The next item on the agenda, was an e-mail from Fred Moreno. Mr. Moreno was present to address the concerns.

From: FRED MORENO <M06300@msn.com>
 Date: September 7, 2021 at 1:55:07 PM EDT
 To: David McPherson <dmp@mcpherson40@gmail.com>, mack ward <mackward83@gmail.com>, Tim & Terrie Gore <terriegore564@yahoo.com>
 Subject: BOE Meeting Questions/Topics

David/Mack,
 See the input from one of our Officers see below on previous email.

I will have some comments at the next BOE meeting.

- 1) NVRA report: The information contained in these reports is very important to parties keeping track of voter roll integrity. Paper distribution of such important data is a business process from the 19th century. Columbus County should bring this process into the 21st century by loading electronic versions of these report on a server (like the NC State BOE) in a choice of PDF or excel formats.
- 2) During the last meeting is the elections office staff was given well deserved praise for finding 130ish duplicate voter registrations and removing them. The are 17 more precincts that have not been checked for duplicate voter registrations. If 130is duplicates were found in 10 precincts, extrapolating at the same rate would me that there are potentially 17 (precincts) x 10 (duplicate rate previously discovered) = 170; 170 more duplicate voter registrations waiting to be found by the BOE staff. The citizens of our county expect voter roll integrity. When will this office start working on this known issue, and how long should we expect this to be completed?
- 3) Many registered voters have died over the course of 1 1/2 years. Many families have contacted me to ask how long it should take for their loved one to be removed from the voter roles. How long before they should take action? What action should they take?
- 4) On you meeting agenda, public comments are very early in the meeting. This puts a burden on those attending the meeting in person - comments on current business will have to wait until next meeting. Can the public comment period be moved to later in the meeting to allow for comments on current meeting topics?
- 5) Several meeting in the past, a motion was brought up to change the start time of the meeting to align with other public meetings throughout the county (County Commissioners, County School Board, Whiteville City School Board, etc). It is hard to understand why a public meeting would be scheduled during work hours.

Fred Moreno
Fight Against the RADICALS – Your \$5 Will Make a Difference

From:
 Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 8:03 AM
 To: m0r6300@msn.com
 Subject:

Look at this: <http://carolinapublicpress.org/29234/nc-certifies-barcode-ballot-voting-systems-despite-security-concerns/>

Hey team... if you're attending you local BOE meeting, below are some questions that you may want to ask:

When attending your local Board of Elections meeting, please ask:

- 1) for a copy of the maintenance agreement.
- 2) if any batteries have already been replaced. If so, when?
- 3) is it ok if a CISSP certified IT technician observes as the Print Elect technician services the machines?
- 4) if they are planning to make a forensic image of the machines b4 they do the update. Because... Federal Law (52 U.S.C. 20701) requires election data to be kept for 22 months and that includes all machine electronics. A simple back up will not retain the system as it was for the 2020 Election. The courts recognize a forensic image. A simple "back up" does not retain the original programming which the law requires.

No action was taken

The next item on the agenda the Director advised that the in-office Wellness Check was completed and provided the Notebooks for review. She advised that the State Board of Elections will be sending staff at the end of the month to conduct their portion of the Wellness Check. No action was taken.

The next item on the agenda was the tabled request from Bonnie Inman for the Board of Elections to conduct background checks on temporary staff. After discussion, the Director advised that the process of conducting background checks were already requested for the Human Resource Department to conduct pending documentation from those workers.

The next item on the agenda was a closed Session pursuant to GS 143-318.11(6) personnel issues. Mrs. Blakney made a motion to go into closed session, Mrs. Ebron second, Mr. McPherson and Mrs. Horne concurred. The Regular session was recessed at 5:24 p.m. The Regular session was called back to order at 6:18 p.m. Mr. McPherson made a motion to set the interviews up for the top 3 candidates for the Sr. Elections specialist position on September 22, 2021 at 2:00 p.m., Mrs. Blakney second, Mrs. Ebron and Mrs. Horne concurred.

The next item on the agenda was NVRA/ removed voter report. No action was taken.

With no further business Mr. McPherson made motion to adjourn meeting and the meeting was adjourned.

CS/cl's*

September 13, 2021, 5:24 p.m.-6:18 p.m. (Closed Session General Account)

Closed Session pursuant to GS 143-318.11 (a) (6) Personnel Issues

Present: Katherine Horne – Chairman, David McPherson– Secretary, Bonita Blakney – Member, Brenda Ebron-Member, and Carla Strickland –Director

Absent: Tucker Ward– Member,

At 5:24 p.m., Mrs. Blakney made a motion to go into closed session, Mrs. Ebron second, Mr. McPherson and Mrs. Horne concurred.

Item #1:

1. Selection of top 3 candidates for the Sr. Election specialist position.

At 6:18 p.m., Mrs. Ebron made a motion to go back into regular session, Mrs. Blakney second, Mrs. Horne, and Mr. McPherson concurred.

CS/cls*

September 14, 2021, 12:00 p.m. (acceptance testing)

Present: Katherine Horne – Chairman, David McPherson– Secretary, Bonita Blakney – Member, Brenda Ebron-Member and Carla Strickland –Director

Absent: Tucker Ward– Member

The Columbus County Board of Elections met for the purpose of conducting acceptance testing on the Express vote machines.

CS/cls*

September 22, 2021, 2:00 p.m. (Closed Session pursuant to GS 143-318.11 (a) (6) Personnel Issues)

Present: Katherine Horne – Chairman, David McPherson– Secretary, Bonita Blakney – Member, Brenda Ebron-Member, Tucker Ward, and Carla Strickland –Director

The Columbus County Board of Elections met in closed session in order to conduct interviews with the top three Candidates for the Senior Elections Specialist position. Upon completion of the closed session was closed and the Board briefly went into open Session and the Board unanimously voted to hire Ashley Collins as the new Senior Election Specialist.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

CS/clb*