

**September 27, 2021, 3:00 p.m. (Regular meeting)**

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

**Absent: Brenda Ebron-Member**

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

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

The next item on the agenda was public comments. Mrs. Bonnie Inman of 242 Brookside Rd., Whiteville NC 28472. Ms. Inman stated that during the last meeting the Director advised the Board that the County would not do Criminal Background checks on the Temporary workers having access to the computers. She advised that she had contacted the County Administration and found this not to be true. The Director advised the Board she had advised that the request to conduct background checks were already requested prior to the last meeting once the documentation needed from the workers were sent forward. She further advised that the HR Director was on leave and that she had actually told the Board that she would contact the County Attorney the next morning to see if those requests were being handled during the HR Director's absence. She further advised that she had been in contact with the Attorney and was advised to resubmit the requests to her and Karen Ward.

Ms. Lisa Blackman of 84 Brookside Rd., Whiteville NC, 28472 advised that she had been contacted to work Bolton Precinct but noted that she was not appointed and further advised that she did not refuse the position as Chief Judge at Bolton precinct. She advised that the Board of Elections never reached out to her. She stated that she advised Doris Strickland of the same. The Director requested for the staff to be able to advise the Board of their interaction in the process of contacting potential poll workers upon receipt of the recommendations by the party chairs. Felicia Brown, Election Specialist and Ashley Collins proceeded to read from their notes the dates and telephone conversations that took place.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of September 13, 2021 minutes. Mrs. Blakney made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Mr. McPherson second, Mrs. Horne, and Mr. Ward concurred.

The next item on the agenda, the Director requested to reschedule the training dates for the November 2, 2021 Municipal Elections. After discussion on the same Mrs. Blakney made a motion to change the training dates to October 7<sup>th</sup> (One Stop training), October 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> (Election Day training) at 6:30 p.m., Mr. Ward second, Mrs. Horne and Mrs. Horne concurred.

The next item on the agenda the Director provided an E-mail from Marlando Pridgen regarding visits to the local High schools to Educate 16-17 yr. old students on the elections processes. She advised that the e-mail had been sent to the School districts as well. After discussing the matter, Mr. McPherson made a motion to table the issue until further information can be provided, Mr. Ward second, Mrs. Blakney and Mrs. Horne concurred.

The next item on the agenda, the Director requested a list to appoint one-stop workers. Mr. McPherson made a motion to approve the listed workers and to add Jean Britt to the list, Mr. Ward second, Mrs. Blakney and Mrs. Horne concurred.

Philip Norwood - Sr. Coordinator  
Jackqueline Smith – Dem Coordinator  
Ray Yates - Rep Coordinator

Karen Thurman-Dem Assistant  
Jean Britt – Rep Assistant

The next item on the agenda was the appointment of Election Day Precinct Assistants. After reviewing the list of available workers the following names were chosen.

Mary	Pyatt	Democratic Assistant	P02B-Bolton
Rebecca	Gregson	Republican Assistant	P02B-Bolton
Elizabeth	Williams	Democratic Assistant	P06-Cerro Gordo
Leona	Kerns	Republican Assistant	P06-Cerro Gordo
Cassileen	Frink	Democratic Assistant	P07-Chadbourn
Donna	Haynes	Republican Assistant	P07-Chadbourn
Ernestine	Keaton	Democratic Assistant	P14-Ransom
Gale	Englert	Republican Assistant	P14-Ransom
Barbara	Featherson	Democratic Assistant	P15-Tatum
Marilyn	Britt	Republican Assistant	P15-Tatum
Pamela	Hudson	Democratic Assistant	P16-Waccamaw
Catelyn	Tripp	Republican Assistant	P16-Waccamaw
Betsy	McKee	Democratic Assistant	P22- South Whiteville
Lisa	Blackburn	Republican Assistant	P22- South Whiteville
Jillian	McPherson-Edge	Republican Assistant	P26B-South Williams
Linette	Ross	Unaffiliated Assistant	P26B-South Williams
Sheila	Johnson	Democratic Assistant	P89-Cherry Bluff
William	Enzor	Republican Assistant	P89-Cherry Bluff

Mr. McPherson made a motion to approve the list, Mrs. Blakney second, Mrs. Horne and Mr. Ward concurred.

The next item on the agenda the Director advised that Logic and Accuracy testing will take place on September 29, 2021 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The next item on the agenda the Director advised that the Mock Election will take place on September 30, 2021. She explained the process and that the beginning time has not been established by the NC State Board of Elections to date.

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, Mr. McPherson second, Mr. Ward and Mrs. Horne concurred. The Regular session was recessed at 4:11 p.m. The Regular session was called back to order at 4:41 p.m. Mr. McPherson made a motion to change the employment status for Felicia Brown and Ashley Collins from probationary to full time permanent barring any obstacles from the County regarding the newly hired Sr. Elections Specialist position (Ashley Collins), Mrs. Blakney second, Mrs. Horne and Mr. Ward concurred. Mrs. Blakney made a motion to advertise the now vacated Elections Specialist position with a cutoff date of November 15, 2021, Mr. Ward second Mrs. Horne and Mr. McPherson concurred.

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

With no further business Mr. Ward made motion to adjourn meeting, Mrs. Blakney second and the meeting was adjourned.

**September 27, 2021, 4:11 p.m.-4:41 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, Tucker Ward– Member and Carla Strickland –Director**

**Absent: Brenda Ebron-Member**

At 4:11 p.m., Mrs. Blakney made a motion to go into closed session, Mr. McPherson second, Mr. Ward and Mrs. Horne concurred.

Item #1:

1. Probationary period for full time employees to permanent
2. Advertisement for Election Specialist position

At 4:41 p.m., Mr. Ward made a motion to go back into regular session, Mrs. Blakney second, Mrs. Horne, and Mr. McPherson concurred.

CS/cls\*

**September 29, 2021, 9:00 a.m. (Logic and Accuracy testing)**

**Present: David McPherson– Secretary, Bonita Blakney – Member, Tucker Ward - member and Carla Strickland –Director**

**Absent: Brenda Ebron– Member**

The Columbus County Board of Elections met for the purpose of conducting Logic and Accuracy testing on the voting Equipment to be utilized for the November 2, 2021 Elections.

CS/cls\*

**October 7, 2021, 6:30 p.m. (One-stop Training)**

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

**Absent: Brenda Ebron-Member, Tucker Ward - Member**

The Columbus County Board of Elections met for the purpose of training One-stop Workers for the November 2, 2021 Elections.

CS/clb\*