

Columbus County Board of Elections

Monday, August 22, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Agenda Item #1: Meeting Called to Order

At 5:00 p.m., Chairperson Katherine Horne called Monday, August 22, 2022, Columbus County Board of Elections meeting to order.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Katherine Horne, Chairperson	Bonita Blakney, Member
David McPherson, Secretary	Brenda Ebron, Member
Ashley Collins, Interim Director	Tucker Ward, Member

Agenda Items #3 and #4: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

- Invocation – Mr. McPherson
- Recited – Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #5: Board Agenda Approval

Board member, Mr. McPherson made a motion to accept the agenda. Mrs. Ebron seconded, Mrs. Horne, Mrs. Ebron and Mr. Ward concurred.

Agenda Item #6: Approval of Minutes

Board member, Mr. McPherson made a motion to approve the minutes for August 8, 2022, Mrs. Ebron seconded and concurred by Mr. Ward, Mrs. Blakney and Mrs. Horne.

Agenda Item #7: Public Comments

Shannon Register, 1512 Lennon St Whiteville NC 28472, spoke regarding a letter she had written to all the board members about Mr. Rich when he came into the office on August 9, 2022 to run for the District 4 Board of Elections seat and having to come back in more than once due to information received from staff at the Board of Elections.

Agenda Item #8: Recruiting Poll Workers

Mrs. Horne informed the board that she spoke with Mr. Parker Holland at the State Board of Elections regarding soliciting volunteers to recruit poll worker at the community college. She stated that Mr. Parker Holland told her that it would be a wonderful idea. Mrs. Bonnie Inman volunteered to solicit for the Republican Party and Mrs. Betsy McKee will recruit for the Democratic Party. They were asking the board to give their blessing to do this because in prior

years Mrs. Inman performed the task and the former director would not accept any of the names solicited. Mrs. Inman explained that she would go to the college and get the names of people interested and bring them back to the Board of Elections for the employees to research. The board members told her if that was what she planned to do, they would agree with the plan.

Agenda Item #9: Directors Report

Interim Director, Ms. Collins reviewed the director's report and gave the board members a copy of the One Stop Plans so they could vote on the schedule for One Stop. Mr. McPherson stated that he did not think the polls should be open on Sundays but if the majority voted on the polls being open on Sundays, instead of having a split decision, he would sign off on whatever plan had the most votes. Mr. McPherson made a motion to accept Plan A, the motion was seconded by Mr. Ward. The other board member did not accept Plan A. At that time Mrs. Horne made a motion to accept Plan C, Mrs. Ebron seconded, and Mrs. Blakney concurred. Instead of having a split decision for the plans to go to the State all board members signed off on Plan C.

Ms. Collins informed the board members that she spoke with Mrs. Gail Smith, the assistant county manager regarding the Nakina precinct. The Bug Hill Department of Aging is in this building but planning to move to Guideway School in October. We still need the building for the November election because we do not have enough time to move a precinct. Mrs. Smith contacted Mrs. Massey the Director of the Department of Aging and asked her to send a letter to Mr. Long the owner of the building to let him know that they were moving but the county would still need to use the building in November for the election.

Ms. Collins gave the board members a copy of Memo # 2022-08 from the State Board of Elections informing them that the North Carolina Declared State of Emergency regarding the COVID-19 pandemic ended.

Ms. Collins gave the board members a copy of Memo # 2022-09 from the State Board of Elections providing guidance for when the civilian absentee-by-mail deadline falls on a holiday.

Ms. Collins informed the board that she had been working with Mrs. Tiffany Holden at the State Board of Elections regarding guidelines for write-in candidates to be counted on ballots. Mrs. Holden informed Ms. Collins that she is currently working with the legal team to provide guidance on how to proceed with write-ins and she would send the information to me as soon as possible.

Ms. Collins gave board members a copy of names sent in for absentee ballots; as of Monday, August 22, 2022, we have a total of 75 requests.

Agenda Item #10: Closed Session General

At 5:49 p.m., Mrs. Horne made a motion to go into closed session. Mr. McPherson seconded, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Ebron, and Mrs. Blakney concurred. At 6:26 pm, Mr. McPherson requested to end closed session, Mrs. Blakney seconded.

Agenda Item #13: Adjourn

Mr. Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 pm, Mrs. Horne seconded, and Mr. McPherson, Mrs. Blakney, and Mrs. Ebron concurred.

AC/amc*