

Columbus County Board of Elections

Monday, February 27, 2023

5:00 p.m.

Agenda Item #1: Meeting Called to Order

On Monday, February 27, 2023, Chairman Jeffery Register called the Columbus County Board of Elections meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Jeffery Register, Chairman	Bonita Blakney, Member
David McPherson, Secretary	Brenda Ebron, Member
Ashley Collins, 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 approve the agenda, Mrs. Blakney seconded, and Mr. Register, Mrs. Ebron and Mr. Ward concurred.

Agenda Item #6: Approval of Minutes

Board member, Mr. Ward made a motion to approve the minutes, Mrs. Ebron seconded, and Mr. Register, Mr. McPherson and Mrs. Blakney concurred.

Agenda Item #7: Board Meeting

Chairman Register asked Director Collins to provide information he requested prior to the board meeting regarding the cost of having the board meeting twice a month during the off season. Mrs. Collins informed the board the cost for board members is \$338.25, excluding the extra cost for any office staff that works during the meeting.

Mr. Register asked the board if they would consider moving the meeting schedule to once a month. The board agreed to a monthly meeting during the off season; however, during the election season they would like to be more informed of what is going on so they would like to return to the bi-monthly meeting schedule. Mr. Ward made a motion to have only one meeting a month on the second Monday of each month starting March 2023. Mrs. Ebron seconded, Mr. McPherson, Mrs. Blakney, and Mr. Register concurred.

Agenda Item #8: Timeframes for Minutes & Agenda:

Chairman Register discussed setting a timeframe for the agenda. The board decided that the agenda would need to be sent to the director by the Wednesday prior to the meeting. The director would send a copy of the agenda to the board by Thursday to review and if nothing needed to be added, the director would then send a copy to MIS to be posted on the county's website by the close of the day on Friday.

Agenda Item #9: Public Comments

No public comments.

Agenda Item #10: Directors Report

Director, Ms. Collins reviewed the Director's report and informed the board that the NCADE Conference would be held in New Bern on March 26th through March 28th and requested that she and Senior Elections Specialist, Felicia Brown attend. Mr. McPherson made a motion to approve administrative staff's attendance at the conference, Mr. Ward seconded, Mr. Register, Mrs. Blakney, and Mrs. Ebron concurred.

Ms. Collins informed the board that the Nakina Fire Department is in the Nakina precinct. Ms. Collins contacted Mr. John Ward, Fire Chief about using the fire station as a voting location. Mr. Ward told her that he would speak with the board about the matter and follow-up regarding their decision.

Ms. Collins informed the board that the NCOA cards were sent out on February 27 and there were 35 cards. Ms. Collins also pulled a report for removed voters from January 1, 2023 to February 27, 2023 and there were 1,590 removed voters during this period. Voters were removed for the following reasons: 1193 did not vote in the last two federal elections, the other 397 were removed due to relocating, death or felony conviction.

Director Collins also informed the board that she was currently working on the new budget for July 2023. Ms. Collins inquired about municipals in November and wanted to determine if they were going to have only 1 "One-Stop" at the Board of Elections, or if they wanted to increase the number and what hours of operation. The board agreed to 1 "One-Stop" location with hours of operation from 7:30am to 6:30pm.

Mrs. Collins also informed the board that Printelect came the prior week to do the yearly servicing of the DS200 and ExpressVote machines and they informed her that the 2 batteries in the DS200 needed to be replaced. The life span of the batteries are normally 3 to 5 years, and the batteries were put in September 2016. An estimated quote for the batteries is \$8,323.00. The batteries for the ExpressVote machines were installed July 2021; therefore, they should be good until 2025 or 2026. The Board would like the DS200 batteries to be replaced before the November election.

Agenda Item #10: Closed Session General

No closed session

Agenda Item #11: Adjourn

With all business having been conducted, Mr. Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. McPherson seconded; the meeting adjourned at 5:34 pm.

AC/amc*