

**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
SPECIAL MEETING – VIRTUAL GoToMeeting
Chatham County Agriculture Conference Center
1192 US-64 Business, Pittsboro, NC 27312
September 1, 2020–5:30 P.M.**

The Chatham County Board of Elections met at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, 1192 US-64 Business, Pittsboro, NC 27312 on September 1, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. via GoToMeeting for a Special Meeting. Citizens were given the opportunity to listen only.

The following persons were present: Chair Laura Heise, Secretary Charles Ramos, Member Amy Meek, Member Mark Barroso, Member Frank Dunphy II, Director Pandora Paschal, and Deputy Director Steve Simos. Lindsay Ray, Clerk to the BOC, and Larilee Isley, Meeting Coordinator for the Agriculture & Conference Center, were present to assist with GoToMeeting.

Chair Laura Heise called the meeting to order.

Secretary Charles Ramos led everyone in a moment of silence before leading everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Adoption of Unanimous One Stop Plan

Chair Laura Heise called the meeting to order by welcoming citizens via GoToMeeting. The chair described to the board the previous day's virtual meeting between numerous county boards of election and the State Board of Elections concerning the counties' non-unanimous one-stop plans. One person was allowed to speak for the majority vote on each county plan, and one was allowed to speak for the minority. Each person was given five minutes, and then there were questions and discussion between the state board members. For Chatham, the Chair Laura Heise gave the majority statement, and Secretary Charles Ramos gave the minority statement. The state board voted 3-2 to adopt Chatham's majority plan, which has early voting sites open from 8-3 on the first two Saturdays of early voting, and from 12-3 on the first two Sundays.

Chair Laura Heise stated that the Chatham County Board of Elections was now required to adopt the state-mandated plan by unanimous vote. When the vote was taken, the result was 3-2, with members Laura Heise, Amy Meek and Mark Barroso voting in the majority, and members Charles Ramos and Frank Dunphy II opposed. Member Frank Dunphy II changed his vote to yes after saying that the State Board should have provided source evidence of their decision without it having to be asked for. The final vote was 4-1. After the three Democrat members each completed their comments, Frank Dunphy was acknowledged by Laura Heise to address the CBOE as follows:

1. Dunphy first stated: "An email to all CBOE members was circulated on September 1, 2020, at 9:45AM by Board Director Paschal, saying, "Yesterday the SBOE voted that Chatham County will have the majority early plan for the November 3, 2020 election. You are required to vote on this option to obtain a unanimous decision. There will be no further discussion. This matter has been settled by the SBOE."
2. Dunphy stated: "There were no source documents, no memo from SBOE Director (Karen Brinson Bell), and no meeting minutes from SBOE to verify the putative adoption of the Chatham's Majority Plan by the SBOE."
3. Dunphy said: "I telephoned Ms. Paschal September 1, 2020, at 3:00PM informing her of (#2 above) and asked her to obtain SBOE documentation selecting Chatham's Majority Plan during their August 31, 2020, meeting. Ms. Paschal produced an email from the SBOE Council General, Katelyn Love, dated September 1, 2020, at 4:38PM (arrived 52 minutes before the CBOE meeting) writing, "This email is to confirm that the State Board yesterday adopted the majority plan for the Chatham CBOE".
4. Dunphy stated: "The issue under discussion (Sunday voting during the 2 weeks preceding November 3, 2020, election) was too important to address using say-so information. This body should require good source documentation."
5. Dunphy further stated: "Using the Email from the SBOE Counsel General (arriving 52 minutes before our scheduled vote) would suffice to change my vote from a (*no* vote) to a (*yes* vote). I implore the CBOE to adopt as Standard Operating Procedure better source documentation (than an Email arriving 52 minutes before the scheduled vote) before pursuing substantive votes that affect the citizenry of Chatham County."

Due to technical issues some meeting audio for this portion of the meeting was not recorded.

Attempts to reach someone at the State Board for clarification of what to do next were not immediately successful. The four members voting in favor of the plan signed the One Stop Implementation Plan Signature Sheet. Later that evening, Katelyn Love, General Counsel at the State Board, replied that the decision of the State Board controls, and the county board should proceed with implementing the majority plan.

Procedures for Absentee Meetings

Deputy Director Steve Simos presented to the board some proposed procedures for processing absentee mailed ballots, and early voting applications during absentee meetings.

1. Laura Heise opened discussion regarding how to process the mail-in absentee ballots which are processed on Tuesdays with all 5 voting members attending. A robust discussion followed mostly by Democrat Members (Meeks, Barroso) and Director Paschal advocating that late at night, if unfinished ballots remain unprocessed, stop the tabulation, members go home for rest, then resume tabulation of unfinished ballots the next morning on Wednesday.

2. Frank Dunphy speaking for the public record stated: "I propose better to tabulate votes all night Tuesday if necessary, rather than shut down the vote tabulation late at night, to finish the next day. This way, the citizens business is better served as voting tabulation is completed as quickly as humanly possible.

Chair Laura Heise made the motion to adopt the following procedures for processing absentee mailed in ballots. Secretary Charles Ramos seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The Board adopted the following procedure for processing mailed in absentee ballots:

- The Board will receive an email the night before or the day of an absentee meeting informing it of the number of ballots to be dealt with.
- The Board will begin each meeting by checking the numbers on the tabulators to make sure they match the total count from the previous meeting.
- The Board will then approve valid ballots and sign where required. This way ballots can immediately be opened and put in the tabulator.
- Then the Board will discuss invalid/problem ballots and vote on approval/disapproval.
- The Board will approve One-Stop Early Voting applications.
- The Board adopted the following procedure for transcribing Military and Overseas emailed ballots:

Prior to a board meetings, MAT team members or Poll Workers (Chief Judges, Judges, or Assistants) of the two parties who have been trained in the transcription process will transcribe emailed ballots on to standard ballots which can be accepted by the tabulator. The original ballot, the transcribed ballot and all paperwork associated with the ballot will be examined by Board members at the following absentee meeting. The examination will include having one board member read off the original emailed ballot while another board member will follow along on the transcribed ballot. Once assured that the duplicate is an exact match, the duplicate will be put in the tabulator.

For absentee meetings that begin at 5 p.m. the meeting will not last longer than 9 p.m. Any ballots that have not been scanned will be counted and secured, tabulator counts will be logged, and the scanning will continue the next morning at 10 a.m. One Democratic and one Republican board member must be present when the scanning recommences. Tabulator and ballot counts will be rechecked before scanning begins.

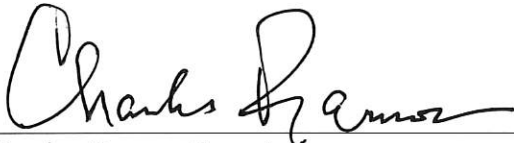
Additional Absentee Meetings

After much discussion the board voted to add the following additional absentee meetings due to the expected high volume of absentee mailed in ballots. Laura Heise made the motion to amend the current list of meetings with the additional meeting dates. Amy Meek seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Friday, October 9, 2020 - 10 a.m.
Friday, October 16, 2020 - 10 a.m.
Thursday, October 22, 2020 - 2 p.m.
Friday, October 30, 2020 - 10 a.m.

Member Mark Barroso revisited the early voting plan dilemma to see if he could persuade Secretary Charles Ramos to sign the One Stop Implementation Plan.

Chair Laura Heise made the motion to adjourn. Amy Meek seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.



Charles Ramos, Secretary

9/17/20



Pandora Paschal, Attest