

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS ABSENTEE MEETING

Chatham County Board of Elections Office

984 Thompson Street, Suite F

Pittsboro, NC 27312

Live Streamed by TaJTalk.com

October 13, 2020 - 5:00 P.M.

The Chatham County Board of Elections met at the Chatham County Board of Elections office at 984 Thompson Street Suite F, Pittsboro, NC 27312 on October 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via live stream video provided by TaJTalk to conduct the business of counting absentee ballots for the November 3, 2020 election. Citizens were given the opportunity to listen only.

The following people were present: Chair Laura Heise, Secretary Charles Ramos, Member Amy Meek, Member Frank Dunphy II, Member Mark Barroso, Director Pandora Paschal, Deputy Director Steve Simos, temporary employee Peter Zelechowski, and videographer Aaron Hall.

Call to Order

Chair Laura Heise called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Chair Laura Heise asked if anyone had anything to add to the agenda. Chair Heise made the following change to the agenda: Staff recommended item number 5, approve returned civilian absentee ballots, be moved to item number 3. Member Frank Dunphy II stated he would like to have a conversation about opening the envelopes with the electronic letter opener.

Secretary Charles Ramos led the group in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Approve Absentee Ballots

The board members in attendance signed the tapes and examined the ballot box before approving ballots for this meeting.

Beginning count machine #1 – 2471

Beginning count machine #2 – 2179

Beginning count machine #3 – 1928

There were 598 civilian ballots, 3 military, and 10 overseas ballots for approval for this meeting.

The board reviewed the envelopes to ensure that required signatures for the voter, the witness and the person assisting if needed were provided before approval.

Chair Laura Heise made the motion to approve the 598 civilian ballots. Member Amy Meek seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Preparations for Early Voting opening

Director Pandora Paschal gave the board an update on preparations for the start of early voting for the November 3, 2020 elections. An explanation of voter intimidation was given as outlined in Numbered Memo-2020-30. Reminders were given to the party chairmen making them aware that observers and campaigners are required to wear face mask and practice social distancing when entering the voting site. Instructions were given about how voters should proceed when turning in their mail-in absentee ballots at the early voting sites. Staff contacted the local law enforcement agencies to discuss security measures for the voting sites to discuss their availability if needed. Board members were encouraged to visit the early voting sites during the early voting period. They were discouraged from staying long periods of time.

Citizens Input from Chat Monitor

Chair Laura Heise gave citizens the opportunity to voice any concerns about the upcoming early voting period. Their main concerns were voter intimidation and security, which had already been addressed.

Conversation about Electronic Letter Opener

Member Frank Dunphy II stated for the record that he did not want to open anymore absentee envelopes with the electronic letter opener because so many ballots were damaged at the last meeting. Member Amy Meek agreed. Member Frank Dunphy II made the motion not to use the letter opener ever to open absentee envelopes. Secretary Charles Ramos seconded the motion. Four members were in favor. Member Mark Barroso opposed.

Approve Military and Overseas ballots

The board verified the duplicated military and overseas ballots to ensure staff replications were correct.

Member Amy Meek made the motion to approve 3 military ballots. Member Frank Dunphy II seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Secretary Charles Ramos made the motion to approve 10 overseas ballots. Member Amy Meek seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

All ballots were fed into the tabulator for counting.

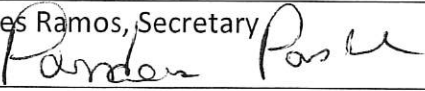
Ending count on machine #1 – 2699

Ending count on machine #2 – 2362

Ending count on machine #3 – 2128

The meeting was adjourned.

 2/16/21

Charles Ramos, Secretary
 2/16/21

Pandora Paschal, Attest