

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING

Chatham County Board of Elections Office

984 Thompson Street, Suite D

Pittsboro, NC 27312

GoToMeeting

April 20, 2021 – 5:30 P.M.

The Chatham County Board of Elections met at the Chatham County Board of Elections office at 984 Thompson Street Suite D, Pittsboro, NC 27312 on April 20, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. via GoToMeeting. Citizens were given the opportunity to submit comments or concerns via email to the Director by 5:00 p.m. to be addressed during citizens input on the agenda.

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, Election Specialist Chance Mashburn and temp employee Donald Lyerly.

Call to Order

Chair Laura Heise called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed the public. Secretary Charles Ramos led everyone in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Chair Heise asked if there were any public input for this meeting. There was one public comment received from Republican Party Chairman Terry Schmidt. He had a couple of questions as follows:

1. During the March 16, 2021 board of elections meeting, Steve Simos discussed a plan for a roving poll worker to use an electronic handheld tablet connected to the electronic registration system walk up and down the voters outside of the polling area to ask voters if they are registered to vote in the precinct. Did the board of election members discuss or approve this plan? Does this plan call for such a roving poll working to be outside the voting enclosure limits?
2. Steve Simos also said other counties are adopting a similar process to check registrations. Can you provide a list of what other counties are adopting this? Did those other county boards of election vote to approve such a process?

Deputy Director Steve Simos explained that there was no plan adopted by the Board of Elections to have a roving poll worker use an electronic handheld tablet connected to the electronic registration system at the polling place. He stated the Board of Elections purchased 5 tablets to use at busy polling places on Election Day for use by an election assistant approved by the board of elections to check the registrations of voters as they wait in line to determine if they were in the correct precinct. If the voter were found not to be in their assigned precinct, they would have the opportunity to decide if they wanted to vote a provisional ballot or go to the correct precinct to cast their ballot. This would also keep the voter from waiting in line a

long period of time, and then find out they are in the incorrect precinct. Member Frank Dunphy had some concerns about the process. He asked to be educated about the process. Deputy Director Steve Simos explained that you go to voter lookup on the North Carolina State board of Election and enter the voters name to see if they are registered. If the voter is found to be registered it will show their voting information and the precinct which they vote. Member Frank Dunphy ask for clarification of precinct and one stop. Staff explained that voters vote at their assigned precinct on Election Day, and any voter registered to vote in Chatham County can go to any early voting site in the county to cast their ballot anytime during the early voting period. Member Frank Dunphy II asked if the staff was proposing that a poll worker do this for the voter? Member Frank Dunphy II stated he did not like it, and he was against it. Director Pandora Paschal suggested that the board vote to determine if this procedure will be used at the polling places on Election Day. Member Amy Meek stated that she did not understand why this was such a big deal when we are not currently planning for an active election, even though it was brought up by a citizen as public input. Chair Laura Heise suggested that the board ponder it for a while as we get closer to an actual election, then decide. Member Frank Dunphy II submitted that we should not wait until three months before an election. It will be too late. He thinks this should be decided now. Member Mark Barroso stated he agreed with Frank that the board should vote on the matter. Member Frank Dunphy II stated there was one other thing to discuss that was pertinent to the matter. Will the tablets be used for early voting? Deputy Director Steve Simos stated they will not be used at early voting, because voters can vote at any early voting site in the county. Member Frank Dunphy II has concerns about confrontations and collaborating on the sidewalk by the poll worker and the voter. Member Mark Barroso made the motion to adopt an Election Day plan to use tablets as needed to verify voters registration increasing in lines inside and outside the voting enclosure. Secretary Charles Ramos seconded the motion. Chair Laura Heise, Secretary Charles Ramos, Member Amy Meek, and Member Barroso voted in favor. Member Frank Dunphy II opposed. The board voted 4-1 to adopt the plan.

Approve Minutes

The Minutes from February 16, 2020 were presented for approval. Member Amy Meek made the motion. Secretary Charles Ramos seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Finalize Outline for Minutes

Director Pandora Paschal asked the board to review the Suggested Guidelines for Board of Elections Minutes and the Chatham County Board of Elections Disagreement Proposal adopted at the March 16, 2020 meeting. The question was asked if the board was ready to vote on the documents in their current state? Member Frank Dunphy II suggested changing the wording to “disagreements” in the second section – third bullet of the Suggested Guidelines for Board of Elections Minutes to match the Chatham County Board of Elections Disagreement Proposal. Everyone agreed to change the wording in the document. Secretary Charles Ramos made the motion to approve the Suggested Guidelines for Board of Elections Minutes and the Chatham

County Board of Elections Disagreement Proposal. Amy Meek seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Member Frank Dunphy II suggested an amendment should be made to the Chatham County Board of Elections Disagreement Proposal to say the deadline requirements for viewpoints should be written 5 business days after the meeting. Frank Dunphy II made the motion to approve the amendment about the deadline requirements for receipt of written viewpoints. Secretary Charles Ramos seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Discuss Precinct Changes

Chair Laura Heise explained that from time-to-time precinct changes are made based on size, location, and accessibility. At the request of the board staff presented information gathered to make changes to some of the precincts and polling places as follows:

1. Discuss Merging Precincts

- a) Hadley/Albright – Silk Hope Precinct - Silk Hope Ruritan Club
- b) Oakland/Three Rivers – Moncure Elementary School
- c) Merge Bennett and Harpers Crossroad – Harpers Crossroads Community Center

2. Discuss Precinct Split - Manns Chapel

- a) Manns Chapel – Perry Harrison Elementary School
- b) Briar Chapel – Chatham Grove Elementary School

3. Discuss Moving Voting Places

- a) Bonlee to Bonlee Elementary School Gym
- b) Bennett to Bennett Elementary School Multi-Purpose room
- c) Pittsboro to Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center
- d) East Siler City to National Guard Armory
- e) North Williams to North Chatham Elementary School

The board reviewed the information and decided to give the public the opportunity to comment on the matter at the May 18, 2021 board meeting before a final vote is taken. Staff will put the information on the Board of Elections website for public comment.

Other Elections Business

Director Pandora Paschal gave the board a report on the status of the Photo ID status, filing for Municipal Elections 2021, and how the staff is maintaining administrative functions in the office.

Adjourn Meeting

Chair Laura Heise stated if there was no further business the meeting would be adjourned. Secretary Charles Ramos made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Amy Meek seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Charles Ramos 5-18-21

Secretary Charles Ramos

Pandora Paschal

Attest Pandora Paschal