

**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ABSENTEE /REGULAR MEETING**

Chatham County Board of Elections Office
984 Thompson Street, Suite D
Pittsboro, NC 27312
GoToMeeting

Recorded meeting is available at <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs/board-of-elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>

May 3, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.

Attendees:

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

Call to Order

After a moment of silence and pledge of allegiance, Chair Heise opened the meeting by stating that this is the fourth absentee meeting to count and process returned absentee ballots and approve early voting applications. She stated there was a quorum to conduct the meeting. There was no public input emailed or from the GoToMeeting chat box.

New Business

Approve Early Voting Absentee Applications

Chair Heise stated that the board will review the early voting absentee applications to ensure that the voter has signed, and the election officials initialed the absentee application as the witness. She stated that the staff had already reviewed them so it would not be necessary for board members to look at each application and instead a quick flip through would be sufficient. Two witness signature deficiencies were discovered. Member Meek made the motion to approve the early voting absentee ballot applications for 4/28, 4/29, 4/30, 5/1, & 5/2/22, Secretary Ramos seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Approve Absentee Ballots

Chair Heise asked Deputy Director Simos to present the absentee by mail ballots for approval. Deputy Director Simos presented the board with a returned ballot container envelope without the signature of the voter. He stated that he contacted the voter to make them aware and sent a cure letter to rectify the mistake. Deputy Director Simos presented 49 civilian ballots, and 1 military for duplication to be approved for this meeting. The board verified the beginning count tabulated on the Verity scanner, which was 56 votes. Secretary Ramos made the motion to approve the 49 civilian ballots presented for counting. Member Barroso seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The vote was 5-0. The board fed the ballots into the Verity scanner. The board duplicated and verified the military ballot that was presented to be counted. Member Meek made the motion to approve the ballot. Secretary Ramos seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The vote was 5-0. The ballot was fed into the tabulator. The ending count on the Verity scanner for this meeting was 106.

Approve Minutes

Chair Heise asked if there were any issues with the minutes that were presented for approval. Member Meek made the motion to approve the April 19, 2022 minutes. Secretary Ramos seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The vote was 5-0. Member Barroso made the motion to approve the minutes from April 26, 2022. Member Dunphy II seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Other Business

Director Pandora Paschal gave the board an update on what was recommended by the County Manager for the board of elections department at the budget presentation on May 2, 2022. The Operating Budget that was approved and recommended by the board of elections to the commissioners for final approval for FY22-23 on June 21, 2022 was as follows: Overtime pay for Deputy Director, and the Election Specialist, and the Directors overtime pay was recommended at \$15.00 per hour instead of current hourly rate. Staff salary increases recommended by the board were not recommended in the County Manager's budget presentations, but discussion on the matter is ongoing (For full discussion see the meeting video for May 3, 2022, at this link:

<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>)

Chair Heise stated there was a concern about the Facebook ad designed by Members Meek and Barroso. Secretary Ramos and Member Dunphy II objected to the use of the proposed ad text because "Your Voice, Your Vote" is a partisan slogan used by the Democratic Party. Member Meek stated the ad would not be used. She apologized and said she was not aware that the Democratic Party used the slogan. She created a new ad which read "Don't Forget to Vote". Member Barroso made a motion to approve the new ad text; however, it was not seconded so the motion died. The board will discuss advertising options at a later date. (For full discussion see the video for the May 3, 2022 meeting at this link (<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings>).

Chair Heise made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Charles Ramos

5/16/22

Charles Ramos, Secretary

Pandora Paschal

5/16/22

Pandora Paschal, Attest