

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING

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

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

March 21, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Chair Laura Heise, Secretary Charles Ramos, Member Frank Dunphy, Director of Elections Pandora Paschal, Deputy Director Steve Simos, Election Specialist Chance Mashburn. Election Assistant Barbara Polk, and Election Assistant Donald Lyerly.. Not present were Member Mark Barroso and Member Amy Meek.

Secretary Ramos led a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Call to Order

Chair Heise called the meeting to order, and stated there was a quorum to conduct board business. She acknowledged and thanked the citizens that were present in person and virtually.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Heise asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none. Secretary Ramos made a motion to approve the agenda. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 3-0.

Approve Minutes

Chair Heise asked if there were any corrections to be made to the minutes. Member Dunphy stated that under the heading Pittsboro Precinct Split 'East' and 'West' should be switched to correctly identify where they should vote. Secretary Ramos made the motion to approve the February 21, 2023 meeting minutes as amended. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 3-0.

Public Input

Chair Heise opened the public input period. Allan Tyson commented regarding naming the split Manns Chapel precinct. He thought they should be named Briar Chapel and Manns Chapel.

To view additional comments click on the recorded meeting at this link:

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

Old Business

Vote on Final Draft of Municipal Contract

Chair Heise presented the cost analysis sheet the elections staff prepared with the cost details and total cost of municipal elections which were calculated based on the 2019 election. The Chatham County Finance Department will determine the cost allocation for each municipality, and return the sheet to the board for approval.

The board voted to approve the final draft of the municipal contract with the revisions from the previous meeting. Secretary Ramos made the motion to approve. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 3-0.

Vote on Naming Manns Chapel Split Precinct

Chair Heise stated that the board will vote on new names for the split Manns Chapel precinct. During the public input period, Chair Heise read the following names that were submitted via email: Briar Chapel Precinct and Manns Chapel Precinct, Haw River Precinct and Pokeberry Precinct, East Chapel Precinct and West Chapel Precinct, East Baldwin Precinct and West Baldwin Precinct. There will be public information to assist the voters in knowing the new precinct names, and their polling place.

Chair Heise asked for a motion for the renaming of the split Manns Chapel precinct. Member Dunphy made the motion to approve **East Chapel and West Chapel**. Secretary Ramos seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 3-0. To hear the full discussion click on the recorded meeting at this link:

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

Vote on Naming Split Pittsboro Precinct

Chair Heise stated there were no name suggestions or controversy for the split Pittsboro Precinct. Secretary Ramos made the motion to approve the names **East Pittsboro and West Pittsboro**. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 3-0.

The board adopted resolutions for establishing the new precincts, and precinct voting places for the East Pittsboro, West Pittsboro, East Chapel, and West Chapel precincts. These changes will take effect for the March 2024 primary election.

New Business

Vote on Fiscal 2024 Elections Budget

Chair Heise asked the staff to explain the line items with cost increases. Election Specialist Mashburn stated pay increases were entered for all election officials (early voting, early voting site managers, MAT teams, Election Day workers), and board members. The budget calls for the Director of Elections to be paid overtime at her current hourly rate. The office space lease expense increased due to the uncertainty of moving to the Performance Building by December 1, 2023. For 2024, the county leased the Suite F office which is adjacent to the current elections office. Funds were also added to lease space in Governors Village to add another 2024 early voting site in northeast Chatham County.

Secretary Ramos made the motion to approve the 2024 budget. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 3-0.

To hear the full discussion click on the recorded meeting at this link:

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Farewell to Secretary Charles Ramos

Chair Heise stated that Secretary Ramos submitted his resignation letter to the board effective March 31, 2023. He has served since 2018. Chair Heise stated Secretary Ramos had the greatest attendance record of any board member for all election official trainings. Chair Heise thanked him for his service, good humor, and patience. Secretary Ramos stated that it was his pleasure to work with the board, and especially the staff. He stated he is very appreciative for being allowed to serve for the last five years.

Adjourn

Secretary Ramos made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Charles Ramos

4/21/23

Secretary Charles Ramos

Pandora Paschal

4/21/2023

Pandora Paschal, Attest