CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR MEETING
Chatham County Board of Elections Office
984 Thompson Street, Suite D
Pittsboro, NC 27312
GoToMeeting
Recorded meeting is available https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings
April 18, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Chair Laura Heise, Member Frank Dunphy, Member Amy Meek, Member Mark Barroso, Director of Elections Pandora Paschal, Deputy Director Steve Simos, and Election Specialist Chance Mashburn. Currently the Board of Elections (BOE) has four members since the resignation of Secretary Charles Ramos on March 31, 2023.

Guest: County Commissioner David Delaney Liaison to the Board of Elections

Member Frank Dunphy 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 a quorum was present to conduct board business. She asked Director Paschal for an update on the appointment to fill the vacancy on the board. Director Paschal stated the vacancy would be filled at the next state board of elections meeting in May.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Heise asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Member Meek made a motion to add the following: Select a secretary for the vacancy of Secretary Ramos after his resignation. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0. Member Meek made a motion to appoint Member Frank Dunphy as secretary for the remainder of the term. All were in favor. Vote 4-0.

Approve Minutes

Chair Heise stated that there was not a quorum to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2023, minutes due to the absence of Member Meek and Member Barroso at the March 21, 2023, meeting, and Secretary Ramos is unable to vote due to his resignation on March 31, 2023. Chair Heise asked if there were any corrections to be made to the minutes. There were no corrections. Member Meek made a motion for the board to approve posting the March 21, 2023, minutes. Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0

Public Input

Chair Heise opened the public input period. Chair Heise read an email from Michael Hobbs about renaming Manns Chapel precinct. Erika Lindemann gave comments from citizens in the Manns Chapel precinct regarding the Boards decision renaming the split Manns Chapel precinct (East Chapel / West Chapel). Ms. Lindemann asked the board to reconsider the names..

Old Business

Director Paschal stated there were no updates to the budget. The budget will be presented to the County Commissioners on May 1, 2023. The status of the board of elections expansion item requests should be sent to the director prior to presentation of the budget to the commissioners.

New Business

Legislative Updates

The following bills have been introduced but have not been voted into law by the North Carolina Legislature.

HB – 303 Reduced Early Voting Period

- Start of one-stop would be the "second Saturday before an election" – currently, it's the "third Thursday" (Final Effect: Early Voting Interval Reduced From 17- to 8 days)
- No other changes to one-stop laws/requirements
- County Boards of elections would still need to determine site configuration and whether to offer weekend voting during the first weekend. Last Saturday would still be required.
- Other related bill would require a constitutional amendment referendum to permit only 7 consecutive days – HB 123

HB – 304 No Mail Ballot Grace Period After Election Day

- All civilian mail ballots must be received by 7:30 pm ~~on~~ Election Day (No change to UOCAVA deadline).
- No ballot delivery allowed to one-stop sites.
- On Election Day, the County Board of Elections must count all civilian absentee ballots received by 5:00 pm. Ballots received between 5:00 and 7:30 pm, and UOCAVA ballots, would be approved/counted during the canvass period.
- Escalated Ballot Publishing Duties for BOE Staff the Duration of (One-Stop / Mail-in) Intervals.

  For full discussion see the recorded meeting at this link:
  https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/board-of-elections-members-meetings

Update Memorandum of Understanding

The BOE is seeking to revise the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the BOE and the Chatham County Board of Commissioners (BOC). The first MOU was established between both boards in 2008 and renewed in 2017. The BOE would like for the language to be revised for clarity as to the authority that each board possesses, specifically in reclassification and setting permanent staff salaries.

The BOE discussed revisions to the current MOU and concluded that the language should be revised to avoid misinterpretation of the document by both boards. The BOE decided to attend one of the county commissioners work sessions held on May 1, 2023, or May 15, 2023, to advocate for revisions of the MOU. Member Barroso made a motion to improve the wording in the MOU as follows: Page 1. Section 2 – delete position classification and compensation, page 2 section 3 –inserted the article "a" before the word (line). Deleted "s" from the word (item), removed "salaries staff" ~~to~~ and inserted "permanent staff salaries", and inserted BOC in place of the word "their", (after the word "for" and before the word, "approval"). Member Dunphy seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0. Per General Counsel of the North Carolina State Board of Elections the county attorney will advise the board on who will sign the agreement. For full discussion see the recorded meeting at this link:

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Member Meek made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Barroso seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7;38 pm.

Frank Dunphy _June 1, 2023_
Secretary Frank Dunphy

Pandora Paschal _6/1/2023_

Attest Pandora Paschal