

M I N U T E S
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

April 6, 2017

The Transylvania County Board of Elections met in regular session on Thursday, April 6, 2017, at 10:00 AM in the Election Center, 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard. Chairman David P. Morrow presided. Others present were Member Sara G. Champion, Director Tracie Fisher, Deputy Director Jeff Storey, Deputy Director Laura Owen, Lee McMinn, Frank Campbell, Aubrey Woodard, Sammy Kicklighter, and Kathleen Barnes.

Chairman Morrow called the meeting to order. Board members considered the minutes from the March 2, 2017 meeting. Ms. Champion moved to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the letter from the Brevard Rescue Squad regarding use of the building as a polling site for Brevard #3. The letter states that the members of the rescue squad voted to discontinue use of the building as a polling site for Brevard #3 due to the limited access that it gives the rescue squad during elections. Mrs. Fisher stated that the office would work with the rescue squad so that the limited access is only on the day of the election. The equipment and supplies can be stored on a secure cart and staff will assist the precinct officials the morning of the election in setting up the precinct. The Board agreed that would be adequate and requested that the Director compose a letter to the County Manager requesting the contract between the county and the rescue squad include a clause stating that the building is to be used as a polling site for Brevard #3 precinct. Ms. Champion noted that the board had looked at other locations as possible polling sites and those sites had several obstacles to overcome.

The next item on the agenda was the budget for fiscal year 2017-2018. Mrs. Fisher shared with the board the questions that the County Commissioners had following her 6 month review presentation. Mrs. Fisher presented the board with an updated spreadsheet indicating the budget needs related to the voting equipment. Ms. Champion made a motion to approve the voting equipment needs as presented in the spreadsheet as well as a 10% contingency fund to be added to cover unknown expenses related to the purchase of the new equipment. The motion carried.

In other business, the Director shared legislative updates with the board regarding elections. Mrs. Fisher informed the board about the District 1 meeting she and the staff attended in Buncombe County. The meeting was held to discuss the transition process involved in becoming a paper ballot county. At the meeting they were able to understand the equipment needs that will be needed and the overall voting process involving paper ballots. Mrs. Fisher has spoken to the VIZ program students, Brevard Elementary students, and Brevard High School students over the past month about elections and the voting process. Mr. Storey accompanied her to Brevard High School to talk to the students about the voting equipment as well. Mrs. Fisher shared the new information that the office received regarding the state certification program and informed the board that Mr. Storey will be taking the exam in August.

The Board opened the floor for public comment. Mrs. Barnes asked how the make-up of a four member board would work if the legislation passed. Mrs. Fisher explained that the state had informed the Directors that if a split vote happened on the county level, it would then go to the state. Then, if a split vote happened at the state level, it would go to a judge to make the final decision. Mrs. Barnes also inquired about the status of board member John Barker. Mrs. Fisher informed Mrs. Barnes that Mr. Barker has resigned from the Board of Elections due to health reasons and a replacement has been submitted to the state. At this time, the office is waiting on confirmation of the replacements approval before they can be sworn in.

There was no additional business for the Board's consideration. Mr. Morrow moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM. The next meeting of the Board will be held on May 4, 2017 at 10:00 AM in the Election Center located at, 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracie Fisher

Tracie Fisher, Director

Approved by Board on: 05.04.17

David P. Morrow

David P. Morrow, Chairman

Sara G. Champion

Sara G. Champion, Member