

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 2019

The scheduled meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Champion at 10:00 am on December 5, 2019 at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Present

Board Members:

Sara Champion, Chair
Lee McMinn, Secretary
David Morrow
Pam Dashiell
Michael Wainwright

Staff:

Jeff Storey, Director
Laura Owen, Deputy Director
Bria Bailey, Deputy Director

Visitors: Kathleen Barnes

Approval and Review of Previous Minutes

Mr. Wainwright made a motion to approve the minutes from Oct 22, 2019 through November 15, 2019. Ms. Dashiell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Schedule for 2020

The board agreed to continue the regularly scheduled meeting on the first Thursday of each month in 2020. **Ms. Dashiell made a motion to accept the schedule as presented. Mr. Morrow seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

One Stop Implementation Plan

The board discussed the proposed One Stop hours and agreed to having one site at the Election Center in Brevard for the required times and the first and second Saturday from 8 AM to 1 PM. It was decided, based on previous turnouts, that the Rosman Town hall location was not used enough to warrant manning the location for 3 weeks. The average turnout was about 8 voters per hour. **Mr. Wainwright made a motion to accept the One Stop Implementation Plan as presented. Mr. McMinn seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

B4 Precinct Location for March 2020 Primary

The director informed the board the Porter Center building is not available for the March 3, 2020 Primary. Director Storey and Deputy Director Bailey met with Beverly Smith at Brevard College to assess using the Myers Dining Hall facility for the March Primary only. Voters would return to the Porter Center in November for the General Election. The director indicated he has a concern with potential noise levels, but overall the layout and space would be adequate. Secretary McMinn mentioned the college has divider walls that could be used in the dining hall

and asked the director to check on availability. Director Storey said signage will be posted and mailings sent to the voters with a map and directions for the temporary site. Secretary McMinn mentioned parking will be a concern also. Chair Champion asked that voters be made aware that parking will be limited and to encourage voters to vote early. Director Storey asked the board if a \$30 stipend could be given to B4 precinct workers on Election Day since bringing their own food would probably not be permissible. The board agreed. **Mr. Wainwright made a motion to move the B4 precinct to the Myers Dining Hall for the March Primary contingent upon State Board approval. Mr. McMinn seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Precinct Official Vacancies / Appointments

Director Storey provided the board with a list of workers needing appointments and the remaining needs for Election Day. **Secretary McMinn moved to appoint the precinct officials as presented in Brevard #1, Brevard #2, Brevard #4, Boyd, Cathey's Creek, Cedar Mountain, Dunn's Rock, East Fork, Little River, Pisgah Forest, TC7, and Williamson Creek. Mr. Morrow seconded. The motion unanimously carried.** The director will forward the remaining needs to the party chairs.

DIRECTOR UPDATES

Training Dates in January

Director Storey provided the board with precinct training dates for the last week in January. Staff will have a mock precinct set up for workers to walk through with hands on training.

The director stated Photo ID seminar dates have not been announced yet from the State Board of Elections, but the county's new equipment demonstration will coincide with it.

Final Documentation for Voting Equipment Purchase

Director Storey informed the board that the proposed contract from the vendor has not been received yet, but he will promptly forward it to the board upon arrival. The director explained the State Board of Elections will review the proposed contract along with the submitted request to purchase the new equipment that was unanimously signed by the board. The county lawyer will review also.

Chair Champion voiced concerns over voters not having a choice between hand marked paper ballots and the voting machines during early voting, but the director indicated the State Board made it very clear that was not an option during the August 23, 2019 meeting. The chair asked what the procedure would be if a provisional was voted due to a voter refusing to use the voting equipment. The director indicated he would get guidance from the State Board.

Emergency Plan Updates

The director discussed updating the emergency plan since new equipment is in place. Mr. Storey notified the board of his discussions with Kevin Shook regarding potential power outages at the Election Center during early voting in February. The options were placing a permanent generator on site at a rough cost of \$50,000 or having one on standby that could be transported and hooked up in less than 30 minutes. The board requested the director look into the standby option.

Public Comment

Kathleen Barnes thanked Pam Dashiell for the high school volunteers to be used for registrations and photo ID. Ms. Barnes asked if photos could be taken if a registrant needed photo ID at the registration drive. The director said a designated person could take the photos and provide them to board staff to import at the office. Ms. Barnes asked the board if the Republicans were going to work the unmatched DMV list received from the State Board. If not, NAACP would reach out to them as they have with Democrats and Unaffiliated voters.

Ms. Barnes asked if the One Stop hours were also for the General Election in 2020 and the board responded it was the implementation plan for the Primary. The One Stop plan for the General will be submitted in the summer.

There were no further comments.

On a motion by Chair Champion, seconded by Secretary McMinn, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am. The next scheduled meeting will be at 10:00 am on January 2, 2020, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.


Respectfully submitted,

Lee McMinn, Secretary


Sara G. Champion, Chair


David P. Morrow, Member


Pam Dashiell, Member


Michael Wainwright, Member

Approved by Board on: JAN 2, 2020