

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MEETING MINUTES
January 14, 2021

The scheduled meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Champion at 10 am on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Present

Board Members:

Staff Members:

Chair: Sara Champion	Director: Jeff Storey
Secretary: Lee McMinn	Deputy Director: Laura Owen*
David Morrow	
Michael Wainwright*	
Sandra Watson	* Remotely via Zoom

Visitors: Pamela Dashiell, Bruce Watson, Kathleen Barnes*

New Board Member Oath

The first item on the agenda was swearing in Sandra Watson as a member of the Transylvania County Board of Elections.

Resolution in Recognition of Pamela Dashiell

Chair Champion presented a resolution before the board in recognition of Pamela Dashiell's service as a member of the Transylvania County Board of Elections. **On a motion by Mr. Morrow, the board unanimously approved the resolution.**

Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

Chair Champion informed the board of the amendment to add the early voting numbers to the October 23, 2020 and October 27, 2020 minutes. The minutes for October 6, 2020, October 20, 2020, October 23, 2020, October 27, 2020, October 30, 2020, November 2, 2020, November 12, 2020, November 13, 2020, and December 3, 2020 were reviewed. **Mr. Morrow made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion unanimously carried.**

Preliminary Draft of Election Budget

Director Storey presented the board with a preliminary draft of the budget for the fiscal year 21-22. The director stated the county commissioners will be reviewing the budget in April and it will need to be submitted by the end of February. Postage will be higher than normal due to additional mailings to precincts that were moved for the 2020 General Election because of COVID-19 and the uncertainty of absentee ballot volume. The director gave the board detailed analysis of anticipated costs by budget categories and line item. The budget will cover the 2021

Municipal and 2022 Primary elections. The director asked the board to consider long term voting equipment purchases. There was discussion on whether to use ExpressVotes for ADA only on Election Day, provide additional for Provisionals, or utilize several for each precinct as ballot marking devices. Chair Champion brought up concerns regarding the ongoing court case and that the board needs to review the feasibility of the multi-year plan for voting equipment. Director Storey will present the board with several options with long-term costs breakdowns.

DIRECTOR UPDATES

Director Storey indicated the CARES Act funds have not been received yet from the State Board of Elections for costs incurred last year. The director informed the board that absentee by mail has returned to requiring two witnesses. One witness was temporary for the 2020 General Election. The ExpressVote lawsuit is due to be heard possibly in April. Director Storey mentioned that list maintenance has been done and the board may notice the total county registration numbers will decrease by 1100. Ms. Watson asked for clarification on list maintenance. The director explained it is a semi-annual process where active voters who have not participated in two federal elections become inactive. Existing inactive voters who have not voted in two additional federal elections are removed. The director will begin interviewing to fill the vacant deputy director position next week. Staff will begin records retention projects and complete campaign finance audits.

BOARD COMMENTS

Chair Champion asked about precinct location reviews. The director commented several variables will come into play when considering precinct consolidation. Chair Champion stated with everything that was going on last election, she felt comfortable that the public attending the board meetings were very confident in the local processes and that the board and staff should continue to be transparent and proactive in encouraging the public to be involved. Chair Champion thanked Mr. Morrow for attending the county commissioner meeting. Mr. Morrow briefed the board on the meeting and indicated it still was not clear how the resolution passed by the board on December 3 was being addressed by the county. The board asked about the timelines for county board appointments. The director commented the governor still appoints the chair and the local parties recommend to the state the remaining individuals to serve. The board appointments should be this summer and every two years after.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

On a motion by Mr. McMinn, Chair Champion adjourned the meeting at 11:44 am. The next scheduled meeting will be at 10 AM on February 11, 2021, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee McMinn, Secretary

Sara Champion
Sara G. Champion, Chair

David P. Morrow
David P. Morrow, Member

Michael Wainwright, Member

Sandra E. Watson
Sandra E. Watson, Member

Approved by Board on: 2/11/2021