

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Meeting Minutes · Absentee Meeting · January 30, 2024 · 4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Edward Lewis, Secretary Stuart Smith, and Member Paula Clarity

Board Staff Present: Director Sara LaVere, Deputy Director Adrienne Rushton, Elections Computer Technician Butch Johnson, Election Logistics Technician Ryan Childress, Assistant Computer Technician Ed Ovsenik, Absentee Assistant Christy Souter, and Absentee Assistant Camdyn Johnson

Bipartisan Duplication Team Present: Julie Paladino, Patricia Vandergrift, Myrtle Stevenson, and Gwen Causey

Meeting Opening

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Absentee Ballots

Ms. Rushton presented one absentee ballot pending board decision, 3 civilian, and 3 overseas.

The ballot pending board decision was returned in a sealed envelope, but the ballot envelope was unsealed. Numbered memo 2021-03 provides that when ballot is inside the executed ballot envelope which is not sealed but the ballot envelope is received in a sealed return envelope, this anomaly is not a deficiency. Staff are instructed to re-seal the return envelope with a notation of “sealed in return envelope” and the county board should open the return envelope and address the ballot at its next absentee meeting.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the ballot. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rushton presented 3 civilian absentee ballots for approval. Each board member reviewed two ballots to confirm they were properly executed. Ms. Clarity made a motion to the ballots as recommended by staff. The motion carried unanimously.

The bipartisan team opened the approved ballots and removed ballots to be scanned.

The overseas ballots were duplicated by the bi-partisan team prior to the meeting and reviewed by the board. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve one overseas ballot that was duplicated. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Johnson opened the Central Scan and the board signed the zeros tape.

After scanning was complete, Mr. Johnson announced that 7 ballots were scanned today with no overvotes. Ms. Rushton confirmed that was the number of ballots approved.

The ballots were placed in a bin and sealed, with seals signed by Mr. Smith and Ms. Clarity. The secure vDrive was placed in a storage container and sealed. The following vote count and seal numbers were logged and will be confirmed at the start of the next meeting.

- Ballot count: 7 total
- Ballot bin: 2617251 and 2617061
- vDrive storage container: 37471593

The board signed an audit sheet confirming the number of ballots scanned today and seal numbers.

Ms. Clarity made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.