

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

75 Stamp Act Drive NE · Building H
PO Box 2 · Bolivia · NC · 28422
www.brunswickcountync.gov/elections

Phone: 910-253-2620
Fax: 910-253-2618
elections@brunswickcountync.gov

Meeting Minutes · Absentee Meeting · February 6, 2024 · 4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Edward Lewis, Secretary Stuart Smith, Member Paula Clarity, Member Randy Pelton, and Member Timothy Randall

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, and Absentee Assistant Christy Souter

Bipartisan Duplication Team Present: Julie Paladino and Patricia Vandergrift

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.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Pelton made a motion to approve the minutes for the minutes of the January 30, 2024 Absentee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Absentee Ballots

Ms. LaVere presented 33 civilian ballots recommended for approval and one ballot for disapproval.

Mr. Johnson verified the seal number on the vDrive seal as 37471593.

There was a clerical error in preparing the agenda and minutes that left out a number, but the seal number was verified with the audit sheet completed at the previous meeting and initialed by board members. The minutes will be amended to reflect the correction.

Ms. Rushton presented one ballot for disapproval. The ballot was missing witness signature and was spoiled and reissued to the voter. Mr. Pelton made a motion to disapprove the ballot. Motion carried unanimously.

Each board member reviewed two ballots to confirm they were properly executed. Ms. Clarity made a motion to approve 33. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Johnson verified the beginning count of the Central Scan was 7 ballots from the previous meeting.

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

Ms. LaVere provided information about pending cures. Voters that vote by mail are required to provide a copy of a photo ID or an exception form; if a voter does not, they are contacted and able to cure this deficiency.

There were three ballots that did not scan correctly. Republican ballots for Bald Head Island voters consist of two sheets with unique barcode identifiers, indicating they belong together. If only one sheet is scanned, the Verity Central system rejects the batch. In our first batch of mailed ballots, some sheets may have separated during the folding machine process. The affected ballots approved at today's meeting were identified, duplicated by a bipartisan team onto a new ballot, and then scanned.

Ms. LaVere explained ballots for Bald Head Island voters will be issued by printing on demand which will ensure that both paired sheets of the ballot remain together. Absentee ballots to Bald Head Island voters are now folded by hand to avoid future occurrences.

After scanning was complete, Mr. Johnson announced that 33 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. Pelton and Mr. Randall. 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: 40 total
- Ballot bin: 2616928 and 2616946
- vDrive storage container: 37471515

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.