

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Meeting Minutes · Absentee Meeting · April 30, 2024 · 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Bipartisan Duplication Team Present: Myrtle Stevenson and Christy Souter

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 March 23, 2024 Absentee Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Old Business

Consideration of satellite locations for Early Voting for the general election

In the previous meeting, it was discussed that St. James expressed concerns that included traffic control at Highway 211, as it has been a concern during events in the past and there is currently construction to widen 211.

Ms. LaVere was able to have discussion with the DOT regarding the timing of the traffic light at the St. James entrance and 211. The timing of the light can be adjusted to allow additional time for the cross-street traffic to move through the intersection. The light timing is currently controlled through the contractor handling construction, but our liaison would be the DOT who would handle making any timing adjustment to the light.

With this additional information, along with the consensus that the Brunswick Center at Southport is not amenable for Early Voting for the presidential election, Ms. LaVere

recommends the use of St. James. Without its use, voter from the St. James, Oak Island, and Southport areas would have to travel to the government complex or the Brunswick Center at Supply for early voting.

If this is the will of the board, Ms. LaVere would notify the Town of St. James and make every effort to ensure cooperative measures to conduct early voting in their community center.

Mr. Smith made a motion to proceed with using St. James Community Center for early voting along with the other locations discussed at previous meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Absentee Ballots

Mr. Johnson verified the seal number on the vDrive seal as 37471389. The current ballot count was verified as 43.

There are 20 absentee ballots for consideration:

Recommended for approval:

Civilian ballots

- 16 Civilian ballots

Board members each reviewed a minimum of two ballots.

Mr. Randall made a motion to approve 16 Civilian ballots and one Affidavit Pending Review ballot as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

Ballots Pending Board Review

- Three Civilian Accepted Cure ballots

Ballots were initially returned with a deficiency; those deficiencies were corrected by the voter with an acceptable remedy. Board members reviewed each ballot.

Ms. Clarity made a motion to approve the three Civilian Accepted Cure ballots as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

Ballots Recommended for Disapproval

- One Civilian ballot with incomplete witness information. The ballot has been spoiled and re-issued.

Mr. Pelton made a motion to disapprove one ballot as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

The bipartisan team opened the approved ballots and removed ballots to be scanned. One ballot was damaged upon opening and was duplicated by the bipartisan team.

After scanning was complete, Mr. Johnson announced that 19 ballots were scanned today with no overvotes. Ms. LaVere 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: 62 total
- Ballot bin: 2617058 and 2617001
- vDrive storage container: 37471347

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

Mr. Pelton made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.