

Goochland County Electoral Board

DRAFT Minutes 7/9/19

The Goochland County Electoral Board convened at 3:03 pm in the Community Room of the Company Six Fire-Rescue in Hadensville. Present: Chair Keith Flannagan, Secretary Robin Lind, Director of Elections/General Registrar Ryan Mulligan, and approximately 60 members of the public.

The meeting began with an informal presentation by the secretary about three maps he had brought for public viewing: the 1820 John Wood map of Goochland, the 1863 Major J.F. Gilmer map of Goochland County, and the 1932 Virginia Highway Department map which he said might show the earliest depiction of the erroneous census line boundary between Goochland and Louisa. The chair then invited members of the public to ask questions or express their opinions.

Discussion ensued on a narrow range of opinions expressed on the issue of re-assigning voter registrations between Goochland and Louisa Counties based on the U.S. Census line. More than a dozen citizens expressed their disagreement with the decision to move voters according to the census line rather than permitting them to vote in the county in which they reside.

Vice Chair Wanda Taylor, joined the meeting at 3:20, having been delayed.

When challenged about the mid-afternoon time of the meeting, when many affected citizens were still at work, the secretary explained that the meeting had been changed from 6 pm to 3 pm to accommodate the Louisa County Electoral Board who had been invited to a joint meeting but later declined to attend.

The general registrar and members of the Electoral Board explained the sequence of events that led up to the late April decision to move the voter registrations. They also discussed their request to the Attorney General's office for an official opinion and described the extraordinarily prompt response they received from that office. The secretary said an answer is anticipated by September 1, and the board contemplates no action before receiving the official opinion.

The secretary complimented the citizens on their civility and patience in an extremely frustrating situation and said the board was seeking every opportunity to restore their franchise before the November election.

When there was no further citizen comment the board took up its regular business.

On a motion by the vice chair, seconded by the chair, the minutes of June 4 and June 27 meetings were adopted as corrected.

The general registrar reported on the NCOA mailings sent out by the Department of Elections to determine active/inactive status. He said his time has been consumed in processing large stacks of returns.

The USB drives for the DS-200 voting tabulators have been sent to the vendor and regular maintenance was scheduled for July 10 or 11.

On a motion by the secretary, seconded by the vice chair, two new officers of election were approved. The board also discussed the current roster and agreed to use their own personal contacts to seek additional officers in certain precincts.

Discussion ensued on high school recruiting and the secretary asked the general registrar to make contact with former Civics teacher Erin Yearout-Patton to see if she can reinstitute the classes she organized so effectively four years ago.

The secretary described the USPS Mail study being conducted by William Bell of the GREB WorkGroup. The survey will provide actionable data that may lead to state or federal legislation addressing the problem of large numbers of Absentee ballots being rejected because they are delivered after election day; the board asked the general registrar to participate as soon as possible.

Discussion ensued on the Louisa County Electoral Board decision to decline to conduct a joint meeting and the draft proposal for an addendum to the Goochland request to the Attorney General submitted by their chair. No action was taken.

At 5:08 pm, on a motion by the secretary, seconded by the vice chair, the board voted unanimously to go into executive session under §2.2-3711-A1, to discuss compensation for the General Registrar; and A7, the response to the request for an opinion of the Attorney General; and A8, retaining legal counsel.

At 5:14 pm the voted unanimously to recess the executive session in order to hear from a citizen who had been unable to attend the earlier portion of the meeting. After hearing his complaint the board gave a brief summary of its actions and assured him it was seeking redress.

At 5:25 pm the citizen departed and the secretary moved, seconded by the chair, to reconvene in executive session.

At 5:38 the chair moved, seconded by the vice chair, to come out of executive session, and the board unanimously affirmed that only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered.

On a motion by the secretary, seconded by the vice chair, the board voted unanimously to direct the secretary to enter into negotiation with a law firm to provide outside legal counsel for the purposes of day to day legal guidance as described by the county administrator.

There being no further business, the board voted to adjourn at 5:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Lind, Secretary