

Goochland County Electoral Board
D R A F T Minutes August 11, 2020

Prior to the meeting being called to order, the secretary asked the chair if he would join his colleagues in wearing a mask as required by Goochland County ordinance, the Governor's Executive Order 63 and Order of Public Health Emergency Five – Face Covering Requirement. He declined, saying he was exempt.

The Goochland County Electoral Board then convened at 5:59 pm in the new offices of the General Registrar. Present: Chair Keith Flanagan, Vice Chair Wanda Taylor, Secretary Robin Lind, and Director of Elections/General Registrar Ryan Mulligan.

On a motion by the vice chair, seconded by the chair, the minutes were approved as submitted.

The Director of Elections reported on the proposal to create a satellite office to handle in-person absentee voting for the November 3 general election. The satellite will be located across from the new Registrar's Office in the old Middle School gymnasium and staffed by at least two temporary assistant registrars. The Board of Supervisors is expected to consider the ordinance creating the satellite at its September 1 meeting.

Discussion ensued on a letter from President Russell Perkins of the Goochland Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association terminating the agreement to use its facilities for polling places effective September 1, 2021. The secretary was directed to respond to Mr. Perkins on behalf of the Electoral Board.

The Director of Elections reported he had just received an email from the pastor of County Line Baptist Church saying they also wanted to terminate their agreement. The vice chair agreed to contact the pastor and discuss the issue; she also reported that she had personally paid for cleaning services at St. James' Baptist Church which was used as an emergency polling location for the Republican Party primary on June 23. The board directed her to be reimbursed.

Discussion ensued on the continuing difficulties with the VERIS software at the Department of Elections and less than satisfactory support from state staff.

Absentee voting, now also referred to as "Early Voting," "Mail In Voting," "Mail-In Ballot," and "Vote by Mail" was discussed with particular attention to the mailings of the Center for Voter Information which had been reported to have as many as a half million incorrectly addressed return envelopes. The secretary provided a sample of an incorrect return envelope for a City of Richmond voter whose return envelope was directed to the Richmond County General Registrar in Warsaw; he also provided a sample of a Goochland mailing which was correctly addressed but pointed out that the envelope was too small to take the pre-populated ballot application.

The Director of Elections reported that 922 absentee ballots had been requested as of August 11; by comparison, a total of 866 were requested for the entire 2016 presidential election. Absentee ballots will be mailed out beginning September 18 and he expects pre-processing to begin on

October 13. He also reported on the purchase of additional vote tabulators which will be placed in service at the most crowded precincts and begin the process of retiring the oldest machines.

Discussion ensued on recruitment of officers of election and the board asked that the current roster be contacted by telephone to confirm willingness to serve in November. On a motion by the secretary, seconded by the vice chair, the board voted unanimously to accept the application of new officers with the approval of the general registrar and individual precinct chiefs.

The secretary enquired about curb-side voting as provided for in §24.2-649. The board agreed that officers of election would be trained to offer both the handicapped voter and the driver the opportunity to vote in the vehicle rather than have the driver come in after the handicapped voter had voted.

The secretary also clarified the rule on cell phone use by a voter inside the polling place, referring to an Attorney General's formal opinion, which prohibits voter assistance through the use of an electronic device to communicate with another outside the polling place, issued on 9/26/2016 in response to William Bell, Secretary of Isle of Wight County Electoral Board and Robin Lind, Secretary of Goochland County Electoral Board. The issue will be covered in training.

Discussion ensued on the requirement for face masks in polling places. The secretary asked that signs be made declaring "No Mask — No Entry," with a telephone number to call (either the General Registrar or Precinct Chief) offering curb-side voting for those who decline to wear a mask inside.

The vice chair reported that she had been asked by the VCU African-American Alumni Association to help create a Public Service Announcement on Absentee Voting and that she would be collaborating with the Director of Elections in its production. The secretary asked that it be made available for the county website as well as state-wide distribution.

There being no further business, on a motion by the vice chair, seconded by the chair, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Lind". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin Lind, Secretary