

Goochland County Electoral Board
D R A F T Minutes September 8, 2020

The Goochland County Electoral Board convened at 6:04 pm in the offices of the General Registrar. Present: Chair Keith Flanagan, Vice Chair Wanda Taylor, Secretary Robin Lind, and Director of Elections/General Registrar Ryan Mulligan; from the public: Board of Supervisors Chair Susan Lascolette, former County Treasurer Pam Johnson and former School Board Member Vern Fleming.

On a motion by the chair, seconded by the vice chair, the minutes for the August 11th meeting were approved as submitted.

The Director of Elections reported on the hiring of two Assistant Registrars to work Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. They will begin work within the next fortnight; funding will be provided from the CARES grant.

A satellite office will be opened in the Parks & Recreation Building across from the Registrar's office on September 18 for in-person Absentee voting. It will be staffed during regular business hours through October 31; officers of election will be provided with masks and PPE; social distancing will be required of voters and observers. Additional signage will be required for parking.

Discussion ensued on polling place re-locations. The Director of Elections has submitted the necessary requests to ELECT for emergency re-location of Hadensville and Blair precincts from County Line Baptist Church to Company Six Fire-House, and from Collegiate Athletic Facility to St. Mary's Episcopal Church. When approval is received notice will be sent to all candidates on the ballot and to all voters in those precincts.

The Director of Elections reported on Absentee Ballot applications, currently 2,361 — about 12% of active voters — with a substantial number of duplicates.

The Director of Elections presented an update on Officers of Election with a record-setting number of new applicants: 41. The secretary moved, seconded by the vice chair, to accept the new applicants subject to approval by the local precinct chiefs. Adopted unanimously.

The Director of Elections reported on a recent consent decree regarding "Print Disabled" voters. He is awaiting guidance from ELECT on implementation of the process to comply with the court order.

Discussion ensued on the acquisition of new DS-200 vote tabulators, one of which is expected to be deployed in the Registrar's office to facilitate pre-processing of absentee ballots. The new machines are not expected to arrive in time for scheduled Logic & Accuracy testing on September 15th and a second L&A Testing is scheduled for October 13th.

The Director of Elections reported that he had placed a Ballot order this day: 15,500 flat; 4,000 folded for Absentee mailings; 200 federal and 100 Presidential only. Discussion ensued on possible reorders as patterns develop during the 45-day pre-election voting period.

Discussion ensued on contingency planning for temporary appointment of replacement Electoral Board members if any were affected by Covid 19 infection, quarantine or isolation. The secretary asked fellow EB members to contact their political party chairs to identify substitutes and prepare contingent forms to have at the ready with the Clerk of the Court. The secretary asked the Director of Elections to please contact adjoining jurisdictions to renew our Memorandum of Understanding on mutual assistance if he or his Deputy were similarly impaired.

Discussion ensued on Ballot Drop Off locations with reference to Guidance that was released by ELECT the previous day. The new legislation places the decision on whether and where to place additional locations in the hands of the Director of Elections who said he has not yet determined if there is a need. Drop-Off locations will be required beginning September 18 at the General Registrar's office and on Election Day at the General Registrar's office and each polling place. For the benefit of the attending members of the public, the Director of Elections explained in detail how ballots can only be returned in properly filled out Absentee Ballot envelopes, originating from his office, bearing the voter's address and an identifying bar code on the external envelope.

The vice chair introduced discussion on the need for social distancing, especially the need for guidance on Political Party observers who are permitted in the polling places on election day.

The secretary asked the Director of Elections to arrange a security review with the Sheriff, to give him a tour of the new offices and ensure deputies' familiarity with all polling places. He also asked that he contact the VDOT to have road signs placed at both old and new locations for the Haden'sville and Blair precincts to alert voters to the new locations.

The chair took issue with the secretary's previously expressed request to have signage requiring voters to wear masks in the polling places and to provide curbside voting for those who chose not to comply. He said he had spoken to Mrs. Trey at the Virginia Department of Health who recommended against such signage, adding that no voter should be turned away for not wearing a mask.

The Director of Elections said that pre-processing of Absentee Ballots will begin October 13.

There being no further business, on a motion by the chair, seconded by the vice chair, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Lind". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Robin Lind, Secretary