

Goochland County Electoral Board  
Minutes, August 10, 2021

The Goochland County Electoral Board convened at 9:00 am, August 10, at Mizpah Christian Church in Fife, Virginia. Present: Pastor Bob Stottlemyer, Chair Keith Flannagan, Vice Chair Wanda Taylor, Secretary Robin Lind and Director of Elections/General Registrar Ryan Mulligan.

The board toured the church parish hall, kitchen facilities, parking and handicap accessibility with the pastor, and discussed the suitability for use as a polling place to serve Precinct 101 which has previously utilized the Fife Volunteer Fire and Rescue station. The board was very pleased with its survey and asked the director of elections to seek a formal agreement for use in the November election.

The board then recessed to re-gather in the Board of Supervisors meeting room at the County Administration Building.

At 9:41 the board reconvened.; present: Chair Keith Flannagan, Vice Chair Wanda Taylor, Secretary Robin Lind and Director of Elections/General Registrar Ryan Mulligan.

A large number of citizens had been expected to attend, but in their absence the Secretary suggested that the board be at ease until 10 am.

At 10:03 am, more citizens having appeared, the board reconvened.

On a motion by the vice chair, seconded by the chair, the minutes of July 13 were approved as submitted.

At the suggestion of the chair, rather than go into scheduled Citizen Comments, the order of the Agenda was altered to allow for more citizens to attend.

The Director of Elections submitted names of candidates for Officer of Election which were accepted unanimously subject to approval of both the Precinct Chiefs and the Director of Elections.

The Director of Elections then submitted the latest voter registration counts and discussion ensued on the number of voters whose names had been purged from the rolls as the result of not voting in two successive federal elections.

Discussion then turned to the issue of Sunday voting, made optional by legislation that went into effect July 1. The Director of Elections said that the City of Richmond had just recently voted to approve it but some jurisdictions had voted not to.

The secretary said he was opposed to it on principle, because of the lack of uniformity across the state, but said he had spoken to members of the community who were in favor of it. The vice chair said she believed we might have to offer it since we did have citizens interested in it.

The secretary then moved that the board “provide for voting on Sunday, October 24, from 12 until 4 pm to find out whether this is an effective use of time and resources” serving our voters. The motion was seconded by the vice chair and passed 2-1, the chair opposed.

The Director of Elections reported briefly on the difficulty of new regulations requiring Absentee ballots to be mailed to residence addresses rather than absentee addresses provided by the voters.

The chair then opened the meeting to citizen comments.

A question was raised about the appointment of Officers of Election who were residents of Henrico County. The Director of Elections explained that the only requirement is that OEs be registered Virginia voters. The vice chair explained the process of recruiting, assigning and training OEs. The secretary expressed his surprise at the suggestion that as many as four OEs were from outside the county and said that, although the Code

directed local political party chairs to submit names of candidates for Officers of Elections, neither party had done so in his 20 years of service.

One citizen raised a query about the number of voters being purged from the rolls, stating that nationally, on average, 10% of citizens move every year and thus a much high number of voters should have been removed from the rolls in Goochland.

District One Supervisor Susan Lascollette, speaking as a private citizen, said she was completely opposed to Sunday voting. She also queried the use of Drop Boxes for the return of Absentee Ballots.

Several other citizens also expressed their opposition to Sunday voting, one suggesting that thousands of voters could be bussed in to vote in Goochland. Another, who did not identify himself, said “Every citizen here is opposed to it, and I want it put in the minutes.”

The question was also raised about “naked” ballots and how the board intended to process them to prevent fraud. The secretary explained that “naked” ballots (the term given to Absentee ballots returned without inner or outer envelopes) were not processed at all, but rejected out of hand. He said he did not know of any “naked” ballots turned in to Goochland precincts in the previous election.

Discussion then turned to the change in polling place for Precinct 101. On a motion by the vice chair, seconded by the secretary, the board voted unanimously to approve Mizpah Christian Church as the new location for the November election. The vice chair said she would follow up with the pastor at Second Union Baptist Church which had been previously designated the new polling place.

Discussion ensued on a draft letter to the Attorney General for a formal opinion on candidate name order on ballots determined by petition signatures. On a motion by the secretary, seconded by the vice chair, the board voted unanimously to approve the draft presented by the secretary; a copy of which is hereby included in these minutes.

Under Good of the Order, the chair reported that for the first time ever, the Republican Party had reached out to local electoral board members in a Zoom call, which he described as very productive.

There being no further business, on a motion by the vice chair, seconded by the secretary, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Robin Lind, Secretary