

## September 24, 2019

The Cumberland County Board of Elections met at the Board of Elections Office at 1:00PM for an Absentee Meeting.

**Present:** Floyd Johnson, Chairman  
Bobby Swilley, Member  
Irene Grimes, Member

Linda Devore, Secretary  
Helen Nelson, Member  
Terri Robertson, Director

**Staff:** Angie Amaro and Vicki Hilburn

Chairman Floyd Johnson called the meeting to Order at 1:00, and presented the Agenda.

**ACTION:** Secretary Devore moved to add to the agenda an item to consider approval of minutes from the Board's last eight meetings in August and September. Seconded and passed unanimously.

**ACTION:** Secretary Devore moved to approve the prepared agenda as amended. Seconded and passed unanimously.

**ACTION:** Member Swilley moved to approve minutes of Board meetings from August 20 and 27, September 3, 4, 9, 10, 13 and 16<sup>th</sup>. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Secretary Devore asked staff to contact the county about getting caught up with posting minutes to our website.

Vicki Hilburn reported there have been 59 votes cast during early voting for the Fayetteville municipal primary. Two absentee ballots have also been received for consideration. One military ballot by mail, and one overseas ballot by email, with no irregularities.

**ACTION:** Secretary Devore moved to approve the two absentee ballots as presented. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Secretary Devore reported that three board members, Swilley, Grimes, and Devore, accompanied Director Robertson to Brunswick County last Tuesday for a demonstration by the three vendors whose voting equipment was recently certified for use in North Carolina elections. The equipment viewed was from ES&S, our current vendor; Hart InterCivic, another large vendor; and ClearChoice, a new and smaller vendor. Devore reported that the ADA equipment from ES&S produces a ballot that our voters are familiar with, and the equipment is compatible. She believes we have had ES&S equipment since 2006, and they have given us very good service. They are here in North Carolina.

Member Grimes commented that she feels it is important that ES&S is local to North Carolina

Director Robertson reported that our county purchased our primary voting equipment two years ago from ES&S, and what we are looking for now is ADA equipment for each precinct to meet federal requirements. This will supplement what we already have.

Chairman Johnson asked Director Robertson what her take on it was, and she stated she would recommend we test the ADA equipment from ES&S in the November election.

Grimes also asked for pricing information for the ADA machines we need to purchase.

Member Swilley asked how many ADA voters do we usually have?

Grimes reported that in her 15 years as a precinct judge, she has rarely seen anyone utilize ADA equipment—maybe one—since most voters with a disability have someone with them to provide assistance.

Swilley asked whether it was necessary to purchase one for every precinct, or could they share? He also asked whether we have used up all of our trade-in credits.

Director Robertson answered that we must have one in each precinct on Election Day, and we have already used our credits.

The ES&S units are priced at \$3550.00 each. Hart InterCivic \$5300.00 per unit, but they offer discounts of 20-30% for early purchases. The ClearVote equipment is closer to \$3000.00 per unit. We have \$294,305 remaining in an account set aside by the County Commissioners for this purchase, and this should allow us to purchase the 81 units we need.

**ACTION:** Devore moved that we adopt a resolution to preliminarily recommend to the County Commissioners the purchase of 81 Express Vote ADA compliant Ballot Marking Devices at a cost per unit of \$3550.00 from Election Systems and Software (ES&S), contingent on successfully testing one unit during our November municipal elections.  
Seconded and passed unanimously.

Director Robertson reported to the Board on the progress of the Precinct Project undertaken by the State Board of Elections to align precinct boundaries with US census blocks. The State is asking for our recommendations by this Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Staff has reviewed the recommended changes received from the State, which propose to move 909 county voters to a different precinct. Our local board does not have the option of not following these recommended changes, however, the State is asking us to offer any modifications for their consideration.

Staff has reviewed all of the State recommendations, and has prepared a list of small adjustments to keep neighborhood streets intact and avoid splitting residential structures. The staff recommendations would move an additional 155 voters, if approved by the State. These are small adjustments of groups of 1-16 voters, who would otherwise be assigned to a precinct different than their neighbors, or otherwise potentially cause confusion.

Chairman Johnson asked whether staff looked at the demographics.

Director Robertson answered that staff did not look at demographics. The staff recommendations are only small adjustments to what the State is proposing. None of the recommendations will change current districts—only the precinct where a voter goes to vote. A

total of 1064 voters will be affected if all the recommendations are adopted, and each will receive a new voter registration card and a letter explaining the change of their polling place. Aligning precincts with census blocks will likely make it easier to draw districts based on census data in the future.

**ACTION:** Member Grimes moved to approve the staff recommended changes to the State Board of Elections Precinct Project, and forward our list of recommendations to the State by September 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Seconded and passed unanimously.

Director Robertson reported that the State requires us to submit our early voting plan for the March 3, 2020 primary by early December. Early voting will begin in February. Staff would like

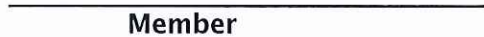
the Board to begin looking at historical data and provide direction.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:57PM.

Submitted by,



Linda Devore, Secretary

  
Chairman  
Member  
Member  
Member  
Director