

## September 29, 2020

The Cumberland County Board of Elections met at the Board of Elections Office for a 9:00AM Absentee Meeting.

**Present:** Floyd Johnson, Chairman  
Irene Grimes, Member  
Helen Nelson, Member

Linda Devore, Secretary  
Bobby Swilley, Member  
Terri Robertson, Director

**Staff:** Vickie Hilburn, Bill Helms

**Guests:** Rick Moorfield, County Attorney. Live-feed available for members of the public.

Chairman Floyd Johnson called the meeting to Order at 9:00AM, and presented the Agenda.

**ACTION:** Member Grimes moved to approve the agenda as presented.  
Seconded and approved unanimously.

Director Robertson reported that we tentatively have 6435 Civilian Absentee Ballots, 247 Military Absentee Ballots, and 119 Overseas Absentee Ballots that have been reviewed by staff and recommended for approval.

**ACTION:** Member Grimes moved that we authorize staff to open the 6435 Civilian, 247 Military, and 119 Overseas Absentee Ballot envelopes presented for approval, and proceed with any needed duplication of ballots.  
Seconded and passed unanimously.

Director Robertson reported that we have 460 Absentee Ballots pending cure affidavits. The Director also reported that although the witness affidavits were just mailed yesterday, we have one Absentee Ballot with a witness cure affidavit among those recommended for approval today. The Absentee Ballot envelope does not have a witness signature. The voter walked into the office yesterday, requested and signed a witness cure affidavit.

Board Members randomly selected Absentee Ballots envelopes to spot check to confirm the voter and witness signatures and witness information. One ballot envelope was found to be deficient, and referred to staff for a cure process.

Director Robertson confirmed that the ballot tabulator currently shows zero votes. Staff and assistants began opening ballot return envelopes, and placing them in the tabulator. Board Members duplicated military and overseas ballots, and those damaged or unreadable by the tabulator.

Chairman Johnson recessed the meeting at 12:00 for lunch, and called the meeting back to order at 1:00PM.

Member Nelson did not return to the meeting after recess.

Director Robertson reported that one mailed-in Absentee Ballot envelope is folded and taped with the voter and witness signature areas inside the envelope.

**ACTION:** Secretary Devore moved to authorized staff to open the Absentee Ballot envelope without a visible voter and witness signature.  
Seconded and passed unanimously.

The ballot was determined to be properly executed, and recommended for approval.

One military ballot and one Overseas ballot were discovered to be cut off at the bottom, so not every vote was displayed. Chairman Johnson requested that the Director contact the two voters, and offer new ballots.

It was determined that four Absentee Ballot envelopes did not contain ballots. The original ballots will be coded spoiled, and each voter will be offered a new ballot. One Absentee Ballot envelope contained a spoiled ballot with a request for a new ballot. That ballot will be spoiled, and a new ballot mailed to the voter.

Director Robertson reported that we received a death notification today for a voter whose ballot is before the Board for approval. Information indicates that the voter died before their ballot was executed, so this ballot will be withdrawn from those recommended for approval. The voter died on September 2, 2020. We began mailing ballots on September 4, 2020. The Absentee Ballot envelope was signed and witnessed. A referral will be made to the State Board for criminal investigation.

All other Absentee Ballots recommended for approval were opened and fed into the tabulator. 6429 Civilian Ballots, 246 Military Ballots, and 118 Overseas Ballots were tabulated, for a total of 6793 Absentee Ballots.

Secretary Devore suggested that the Board consider not approving the Absentee Ballot with witness cure affidavit attached, and to table action on that ballot until we have clarity from the courts.

**ACTION:** Member Grimes moved to approve 6429 Civilian Absentee Ballots recommended by staff without irregularities.  
Seconded and passed unanimously. 3-1 Devore against.

**ACTION:** Secretary Devore moved to approve 246 Military Absentee Ballots recommended by staff without irregularities.

Seconded and passed unanimously. 3-1 Chairman Johnson against.

**ACTION:** Member Swilley moved to approve 118 Overseas Absentee Ballots recommended by staff without irregularities.  
Seconded and passed unanimously. 4-0

Tabulator counted 6793 ballots.

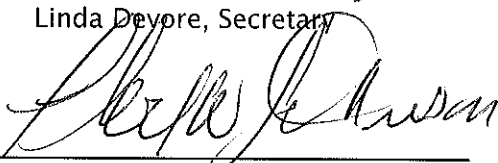
**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 1 at 9:00AM at the Board of Elections office.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55PM.

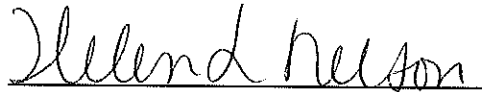
Submitted by,



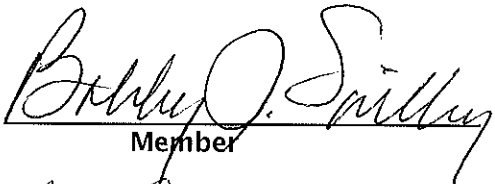
Linda Devore, Secretary



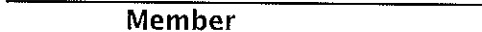
Chairman



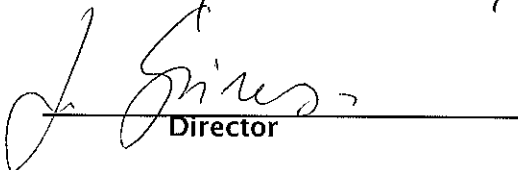
Member



Member



Member



Director