

October 22, 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
Terri Robertson, Director

Linda Devore, Secretary
Bobby Swilley, Member

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.

Chairman Johnson welcomed the County Attorney, and resumed a discussion of the 101 Absentee Ballots with Cure Affidavits presented at yesterday's meeting. No action was taken yesterday on any of the 101 Witness Cure Ballots presented, but general consensus was reached to accept 85 of the ballots.

Secretary Devore stated that 15 of 16 of the remaining Ballot Envelopes under discussion contain multiple witness deficiencies, which make it impossible to determine the identity of the witness, and she raised concern with the signatures on one Ballot Envelope.

Member Nelson emailed Board Members that she expected to join the meeting late, and requested further consideration of the Absentee Ballots with Witness Cure Affidavits not be taken up until she could arrive.

ACTION: Secretary Devore moved to table further discussion of the 101 Absentee Ballots with Cure Affidavits until Member Nelson could arrive.
Seconded and passed unanimously.

Board Members randomly selected Absentee Ballot envelopes to spot check and confirm the voter signature, witness signature, and witness information. No additional irregularities were found, other than the 85 Ballot Envelopes with Witness Cure Affidavits that Board Members reviewed yesterday. The additional 16 Ballot Envelopes with Witness Cure Affidavits that remain unresolved were again reviewed.

Staff reported that 701 Civilian Absentee Ballot envelopes and 17 Military Absentee Ballots

have been reviewed by staff and are recommended for approval today.

ACTION: Secretary Devore moved to authorize staff to open the 701 Civilian Absentee Ballot envelopes presented by staff today, as well as the 85 with Witness Cure Affidavits presented yesterday, and proceed with any needed duplication of ballots.
Seconded and passed unanimously.

Director Robertson confirmed that the ballot tabulator reading is 15,511*.

Bill Helms reported that the tabulator storage device is reaching maximum functional capacity, and it is advisable that the stored scanned ballots and tabulated votes be backed up and transferred to another storage device. The data was transferred and stored, and tabulator re-set to zero.

Civilian Absentee Ballot envelopes were opened, no irregularities found, and placed in the tabulator.

ACTION: Secretary Devore moved to approve 701 Civilian Absentee Ballots recommended by staff without irregularities, and an additional 85 Civilian Absentee Ballots with Witness Cure Affidavits.
Seconded and passed unanimously. 4-0

ACTION: Member Grimes moved to authorize staff to open 17 Military Absentee Ballots.

17 Military Absentee Ballots were opened, duplicated as needed, and placed in the tabulator

ACTION: Secretary Devore moved to approve 17 Military Absentee Ballots recommended by staff without irregularities.
Seconded and passed unanimously. 4-0

Director Robertson reported that 2 Absentee Ballot Envelopes have been received that were executed by voters who have become deceased.

ACTION: Member Swilley moved to disapprove the two ballots received after the voters became deceased.
Seconded and passed unanimously. 4-0

Chairman Johnson returned to discussion of the 16 Civilian Absentee Ballots with Witness Cure Affidavits not yet acted upon.

County Attorney Moorfield reviewed Numbered Memos from the State Board, and further consulted with State Board counsel. He reported that NM 2020-19 (revised Oct 17) intends to

allow a voter to cure multiple deficiencies, including ballot envelopes missing a printed witness name and witness address.

ACTION: Secretary Devore moved to not approve the 16 Civilian Absentee Ballots with Witness Cure Affidavits with multiple deficiencies.
Seconded. Motion failed 2-2. Johnson and Grimes against.

ACTION: Member Grimes moved to approve the 16 Civilian Absentee Ballots with Witness Cure Affidavits.
Seconded. Motion failed 2-2. Devore and Swilley against.

Member Swilley requested a 10-minute recess.

Chairman Johnson recessed the meeting at 11:35, and called the meeting back to order at 11:45.

ACTION: Member Grimes moved to reconsider and approve the 16 Civilian Absentee Ballots with Witness Cure Affidavits.

Member Swilley requested another short recess.

Chairman Johnson recessed the meeting at 11:48, and called the meeting back to order at 11:50.

ACTION: Chairman Johnson called for a vote on the motion to approve 16 Civilian Absentee Ballots with Witness Cure Affidavits.
Motion passed by majority vote 3-1. Devore against.

Total ballots approved and tabulated today: 803

Tabulator total: 803

Cumulative Total Mail-in Absentee Ballots Approved and Tabulated: 16,313.

The 16 Civilian Absentee Ballots with Witness Cure Affidavits were approved, but not yet tabulated.

Director Robertson reported an additional 6823 ballots were cast and accepted after the report received at our Wednesday meeting and up to 3:00PM yesterday, including the Absentee Ballots approved and tabulated today. [not including the 16 ballots approved but not yet tabulated]

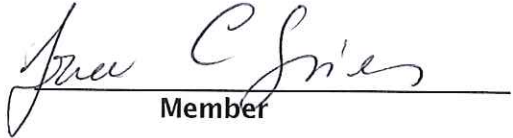
Next Meeting: Friday, October 23 at 9:00AM at the Board of Elections office.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55AM.

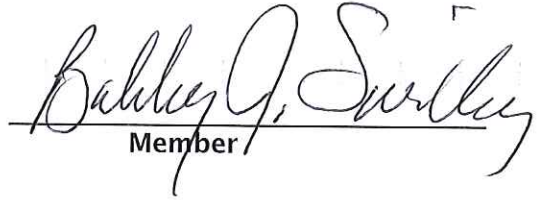
Submitted by,


Linda Devore, Secretary


Chairman


Member

Director


Member

Nelson not present
Member