

October 6, 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
Helen Nelson, Member [arrived 10:05]

Linda Devore, Secretary
Bobby Swilley, Member

Staff: Vickie Hilburn

Guests: County Attorney Rick Moorfield. 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 and Board Members briefly discussed the court orders entered since last meeting regarding witness cure affidavits for deficient ballot envelopes, and State Board guidance in NM 2020-28 and 29 replacing earlier guidance for witness cure affidavits. County Boards shall take no action on Absentee Ballot return envelopes with a deficiency, and hold them in a secure location.

Director Robertson reported that we initially mailed about 70 letters to voters with witness deficiencies. Their original ballots were spoiled, but this is a computer designation only until the new ballot is received. Many have already returned their new ballots without deficiencies. We have received about 165 affidavits from voters, mostly for missing voter signature.

Chairman Johnson recessed the meeting at 9:25 due to a power outage. Meeting was called back to order at 9:40 when power was restored.

Director Robertson recommended two additional MAT members, and reported that the teams will begin work today at Heritage Place. Theodore Hargrove (Republican) and Joyce Raymond (Unaffiliated).

ACTION: Member Swilley moved to approve the appointments of Theodore Hargrove and Joyce Raymond to Multi-Partisan Assistance Teams.
Seconded and approved unanimously.

Director Robertson reported that 7 Absentee Ballots were received that were witnessed by two persons with the same address. The address they printed on the ballot return envelopes was

not where they live, but the address of a residential care facility where they work. They signed as witnesses and as having provided assistance. It is a felony under North Carolina law for an employee of a residential care facility to assist a voter residing in their facility. New ballots have been issued to the voters, and the information gathered has been forwarded to the State Board for further investigation.

Director Robertson reported that we tentatively have 1333 Civilian Absentee Ballots, 89 Military Absentee Ballots, and 40 Overseas Absentee Ballots that have been reviewed by staff and recommended for approval.

ACTION: Member Grimes moved that we authorize staff to open the 1333 Civilian, 89 Military, and 40 Overseas Absentee Ballot envelopes presented for approval, and proceed with any needed duplication of ballots.
Seconded and passed unanimously.

Board Members randomly selected Absentee Ballots envelopes to spot check to confirm the voter and witness signatures and witness information.

Director Robertson presented one additional recommendation for a MAT member. Joanne Rand (Democrat).

ACTION: Member Swilley moved to approve the appointment of Joanne Rand to a Multi-Partisan Assistance Team.
Seconded and approved unanimously.

Director Robertson confirmed that the ballot tabulator currently shows 8205 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.

One Absentee Ballot envelope contained a spoiled ballot with a request for a new ballot. A new ballot will be mailed to the voter.

All other Absentee Ballots recommended for approval were opened and fed into the tabulator. 1332 Civilian Ballots, 89 Military Ballots, and 40 Overseas Ballots were tabulated, for a total of 1461 Absentee Ballots.

ACTION: Secretary Devore moved to approve 1332 Civilian Absentee Ballots recommended by staff without irregularities.
Seconded and passed unanimously. 5-0

ACTION: Secretary Devore moved to approve 89 Military Absentee Ballots recommended by staff without irregularities.
Seconded and passed unanimously. 5-0

ACTION: Secretary Devore moved to approve 40 Overseas Absentee Ballots recommended by staff without irregularities.
Seconded and passed unanimously. 5-0

Tabulator total: 9666 ballots.

ACTION: Secretary Devore moved to combine our two meetings [Absentee and regular monthly meeting] scheduled for next Tuesday, October 13th into a single meeting at 9:00AM.
Seconded and passed unanimously. 5-0

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 8 at 9:00AM at the Board of Elections office.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00PM.

Submitted by,



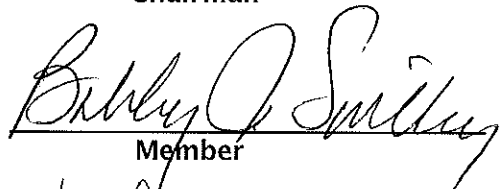
Linda Devore, Secretary



Chairman



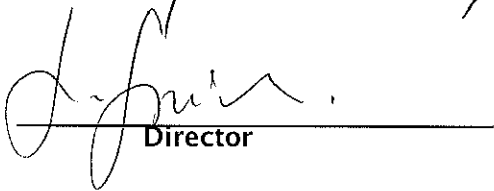
Member



Member



Member



Director