

COUNTY OF CARTERET BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1702 Live Oak Street, Beaufort, NC 28516
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes, October 4, 2023
9:00AM

I. Meeting Called to Order

Chair Susan Cuthrell called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

Board Members Present: Chair Susan Cuthrell, Secretary Jeanette Deese, Member Dale Gillikin, Member Lucia Bond, and Member Gerald Godette

Staff Members Present: Director Caitlin Sabadish, Deputy Director Margot Burke

Others Present: Barbara Smith; citizen, Lynn Carraway; citizen, Ralph Hall; League of Women Voters (LWV), Normal Hall; LWV

II. Approval of Agenda

Member Gillikin made a motion to approve the October 4, 2023 regular meeting agenda as presented. Member Bond seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

No comments were made by the public.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the September 6, 2023 Regular Meeting were presented for Board approval. Member Gillikin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval of Election Day Precinct Officials

Staff presented an updated list of workers that they anticipate will be working the November, 2023 Municipal Election. Staff explained that they have had several appointed precinct officials that are unable to work this election due to various reasons. As a result, staff provided the Board with a list of recommendations to fill the subsequent vacancies. Staff noted that they did their best to accommodate the list of appointed assistants that was submitted by the Republican Party and they have several new precinct officials signed up for training and on the schedule to work the upcoming election. Staff noted that the list is subject to change dependent upon the availability of the precinct officials. After much discussion Member Bond made a motion to approve the list of precinct officials and fill the vacancies in accordance with G.S. 163-41 and G.S 163-42. Member Gillikin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. MAT Appointments

Director Sabadish recommended Mary Ann Mehan (D) and Ray Waldbusser (R) to the Board for appointment of the one Multi-partisan Assistance Team (MAT) for the November, 2023 Municipal Election. Both recommendations have experience working as MAT members. Secretary Deese made a motion to appoint both members as recommended by staff. Member Godette seconded the motion and the

motion passed unanimously. Director Sabadish noted that the office has not received any requests for MAT assistance at this time.

VII. Director's Report

- a. Change of Precinct Cards
 - i. Director Sabadish explained that postcards will be mailed out to all registered voters who will be affected by the temporary precinct merges in effect for the November, 2023 Municipal Election as required by G.S. 163-128(a).
- b. Training Update
 - i. Director Sabadish informed the Board that training has been very successful and staff has received positive feedback about the material presented and the structured breakout groups.
- c. Absentee by Mail Update
 - i. Director Sabadish informed the Board that staff has received twenty-five (25) absentee ballot request forms for the 2023 Municipal Election and noted that absentee by mail ballots will be mailed out on October 6, 2023. Director Sabadish recommended that the Board cancel their October 10, 2023 absentee meeting due to lack of volume of absentee by mail ballots expected to be received. Member Gillikin made a motion to cancel the October 10, 2023 Absentee Board meeting. Member Bond seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Director Sabadish also noted that registration for the NCSBE Winter Conference has been completed and hotel rooms have been booked for February 4 through February 6, 2023 at the conference venue in Concord, North Carolina.

VIII. Board Comments

Chair Cuthrell opened the floor for Board comments. No formal action was required by the Board.

Member Godette

Member Godette thanked the staff for their hard work and for implementing all of the legislative changes in to procedure.

Member Bond

Member Bond thanked the staff for their open communication concerning the precinct official appointments and for the list of precinct officials working the November, 2023 Election. Member Bond noted that she is looking forward to taking the precinct official training course.

Secretary Deese

Secretary Deese thanked the staff for their hard work and referenced a recent article published in the Carteret County NewsTimes concerning department head salaries within the County. Secretary Deese commented on the significant gap in pay highlighting that the Elections Director is the third lowest paid department

head in the County. Secretary Deese noted that the Board recognizes and acknowledges the legal responsibility that is put on staff and appreciates the value of the work that is conducted by the Board of Elections.

Member Gillikin

Member Gillikin concurred with Secretary Deese’s comments concerning the department head salaries and noted that the staff should be compensated for the legal responsibility and scrutiny that surrounds the work in Elections. Member Gillikin thanked the staff for all of their hard work and encouraged everyone to read over the updated Numbered Memos prior to the next meeting.

Chair Cuthrell

Chair Cuthrell echoed the other Board Members’ comments and agreed that staff should be compensated more for the work that they do and the legal responsibility that is inherited by this type of work. Chair Cuthrell noted that the October 10, 2023 Absentee meeting has been cancelled and the next Carteret County Board of Elections meeting will be the Absentee meeting to be held on October 17, 2023 at 4:00PM at the Board of Elections office in Beaufort.

IX. Logic and Accuracy Testing

The five (5) member bi-partisan Board of Elections performed logic and accuracy testing on the Morehead 2, Bogue, Emerald Isle, Cape Carteret/Cedar Point, and Wildwood DS200 tabulators to be used on Election Day. Each machine was tested for logic and accuracy and test ballots were fed into each machine. The tapes from the test were printed, verified, and signed by the Board members. No formal action was required by the Board.

X. Adjournment

Member Bond made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Member Gillikin and the motion was passed unanimously.

Susan Cuthrell, Chair

Jeanette Deese, Secretary

Dale Gillikin, Member

Lucia Bond, Member

Gerald Godette, Member