



DURHAM COUNTY Board of Elections

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Minutes of Board Meeting

Thursday, June 13th, 2019 5:00 p.m.

Members present

Philip Lehman, Chairman
Luke Farley, Secretary (telephone)
Dawn Baxton, Member
Michael Gray, Member
Pamela Oxendine, Member

Staff present

Derek Bowens, Elections Director
Samuel Gedman, Deputy Director
Brenda Baker, Compliance Manager

County officials present:

Willie Darby, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Kathy Everett-Perry, Chief Human Resources Officer/Chief Employment Counsel

Audience members present: See attendance sheet

Meeting opening

Chairman Lehman called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Farley was present via telephone.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the agenda for the meeting. Following review, Mr. Lehman moved to approve the agenda. This motion was seconded by Ms. Baxton and passed unanimously, 5 - 0.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with draft minutes from the May 09, 2019 meeting. Following review, Mr. Lehman moved to approve the minutes. This motion was seconded by Ms. Oxendine and passed unanimously, 5 - 0.

Director's Report

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with updates on list maintenance, finance, legislative activity, pending litigation at the state level, the storage facility project, security processes and the DHS/SBE investigation into the events of the 2016 General Election, voting equipment acquisition, the SBE Polling Place Uniformity Project, the imminent proposal of precinct line adjustments and photo identification implementation.

Public comment and questions

In response to updates on voting equipment from the Director's report, a question arose regarding AutoMarks and whether they are still in compliance. Mr. Bowens responded, yes.

An update was given on the NC State Board Public Meeting that was held on June 13, 2019. Comments specifically reflected Voting System Certification and new processes being created for Absentee by Mail and the requirement of sending in Photo ID.

Old Business

a. Adoption of One-Stop Voting Plan for 2019 Municipal Elections

- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with options for an early-voting plan for the Municipal Primary and Election this coming Fall. Following discussion and comments, Chairman Lehman moved to adopt the plan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Oxendine and did not pass unanimously, 4 - 1 (Mr. Farley voting no). The majority plan will be presented to the NC State Board of Elections.

Mr. Farley opted not to submit an alternative plan to the State Board of Elections.

b. Adoption of Municipal Election Agreements

- Mr. Bowens informed the Board that staff had received pre-audit certificates for the election agreements submitted by the City of Durham and Town of Chapel Hill. Chairman Lehman executed these agreements and they are in the process of being returned to the municipalities. The City of Raleigh and Town of Morrisville have been informed of our need to have these certificates prior to election agreement execution.

New Business

- No new business

General Discussion

Mr. Bowens congratulated Sam Gedman, Deputy Director and Deborah Hart, Senior Elections Administrator for becoming Certified NC Administrators with two of the highest exam scores.

Chairman Lehman suggested cancelling the July meeting since there are two meetings in August. The Board unanimously agreed to cancel the July Board meeting.

Closed Session

Chairman Lehman moved for the Board to meet in closed session as allowed under (N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 143-318.11(a)(1) and 143-318.11(a)(6)) to perform the annual evaluation of the Director of Elections. The motion was seconded by Ms. Oxendine and passed unanimously, 5 - 0. The Board met in closed session from approximately 6:05 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. At the end of the closed session, the Board returned to open session.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m. on a motion made by Chairman Lehman. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baxton and passed unanimously, 5 - 0.


Luke J. Farley, Sr., Secretary