



MEETING MINUTES

Board of Elections Meeting
Tuesday, July 20, 2021
12:00 P.M.

Board Members:

Dawn Y. Baxton, Member
Gregory D. Irby, Member
Philip A. Lehman, Member
Pamela A. Oxendine, Member
David K. Boone, Member

Board Members Present: Member Dawn Y. Baxton, Member Gregory D. Irby, Member Philip A. Lehman, Member Pamela A. Oxendine, and Member David K. Boone

Board Staff Present: Elections Director Derek Bowens, Deputy Director Brenda Baker, Systems and Audit Manager Daniel Lassiter

Guests in Attendance: See Attendance Sheet

Meeting Type: In-Person and Zoom

Meeting Opening

Elections Director, Derek Bowens called the meeting to order at approximately 12:04 p.m. at the Durham County Administration II Building, Room 126 (201 E Main St. Durham, NC 27701) and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the agenda for the meeting. Following review, Mr. Lehman moved to approve the agenda as submitted by staff. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Organizational Business

a. 2021-2023 Oath Ceremony for Board of Elections Members

- Judge Orlando Hudson swore in Board Members for the 2021-2023 service term. During the ceremony, Mr. Phil Lehman passed the gavel to Ms. Baxton, the newly appointed Chair.

b. Election of Secretary

- Mr. Gregory Irby was elected as secretary on a motion made by Mrs. Oxendine. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

c. Recognition of Michael Hale Gray (2018-2021 Board Member)

- Chairwoman Baxton presented Mr. Gray with a certificate for his time served on the Board as Secretary. Each member of the Board expressed their gratitude to Mr. Gray and thanked him for his service.

d. Adoption of Regular Meeting Schedule

- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the 2021 Meeting Schedule. Following review, Mr. Irby moved to adopt the 2021 Board Meeting Schedule. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

e. Adoption of Duties of Director of Elections

- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the Duties of Director of Elections. Following review, Mr. Irby moved to adopt the duties as presented. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

f. Review of Memorandum of Understanding

- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the Memorandum of Understanding. This is an agreement between the Board of Elections and Durham County regarding personnel management and administration. Following review, Mr. Lehman moved to maintain the Memorandum of Understanding that was adopted in 2017. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Director's Report

Mr. Bowens provided the Board with updates on Legislation/Litigation, Polling Place Adjustments and Town of Cary Annexations.

Public Comment

No comments or questions were provided in the public chat function or through the online submission portal.

New Business

a. Approval of Minutes (06/10/2021)

- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the minutes from the June 10th Board meeting. Following review, Mr. Irby moved to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

b. Adoption of One-Stop Voting Plan for 2021 Municipal Elections

- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the One-Stop Voting Plan for the 2021 Municipal Elections. Following review and discussion, Mr. Lehman moved to adopt the plan as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Oxendine. The motion failed, 3-2, with Mr. Irby and Mr. Boone dissenting in favor of a plan that includes East Regional Library as a 5th location. Mr. Bowens informed the Board that he would be sending a Majority and Minority Plan to the State Board of Elections for consideration when adopting a plan for Durham County.

c. Felony Challenge – Sivarus Williams-Jones

- Mr. Bowens presented the Board with information regarding Mr. Sivarus Williams-Jones, who appealed his removal as a voter for an active felony conviction. Following review, Mr. Lehman moved to enter a challenge against Mr. Williams-Jones. Mr. Irby seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously, 5-0. Chairman Baxton scheduled the preliminary hearing as required by NCGS 163-85 for August 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

General Discussion

Director Bowens informed the Board of the State Board of Elections Conference that was being held virtually on Aug 2nd - 4th. Also, in preparation for the August 17th Board Meeting for Chief Judge and Judge Appointments, staff will be meeting with party chairs on August 5th to discuss assignments.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m. on a motion made by Mrs. Oxendine. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

s/Gregory D. Irby
Member