



DURHAM COUNTY Board of Elections

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Minutes of Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 3, 2017, 5:00 p.m.

Members present

Chairman Bill Brian

Secretary Dawn Baxton

Member Margaret Griffin

Staff present

Elections Director Derek Bowens

Chief of Staff Kate Cosner

Deputy Director George McCue

Election Administrator Rose Wolf

County attorney present: Senior Assistant County Attorney Willie Darby

Audience members present: Susan Pochapsky, Susan Weaver

Introductory matters

Chairman Brian called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board reviewed minutes from its last meeting on September 26, 2017. Ms. Griffin moved to approve the minutes. Secretary Baxton seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Director's report

Mr. Bowens provided an update on voting activity during one-stop early voting, including graphical presentations of voter demographics.

Old business: Memorandum of Understanding with Durham County administration

Mr. Bowens reported that this document was still in the hands of Human Resources Director Kathy Everett-Perry and County Attorney Lowell Siler.

New business

Review of absentee ballots

The Board reviewed 27 returned absentee ballot applications that had been submitted in time for this meeting. Secretary Baxton moved to approve all applications (including one-stop votes, for a total of 2,926 absentee votes). The motion was seconded by Ms. Griffin and passed 3-0.

Mr. Bowens requested that staff continue procedures to prepare for Election Day counts of absentee votes. The Board voted to continue approving these preparatory steps on a motion by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Secretary Baxton, and passing 3-0.

Election judge substitutions

Mr. Bowens provided the Board with a list of one needed substitution of chief judge, for Precinct 31. Mr. Bowens noted that this substitution would only be in effect for the upcoming October municipal election. Ms. Griffin moved to approve the substitution. The motion was seconded by Secretary Baxton and passed 3-0.

Resolution to Adopt a Time for Counting Absentee Ballots (November 2017 election)

The Board adopted a resolution to change the time of the absentee ballot count for the November 7, 2017 municipal election to 2:00 p.m. This motion was made by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Secretary Baxton, and passed 3-0.

Public comment and questions; general discussion

Mr. Bowens responded to a question from audience member Susan Pochapsky regarding the number of same-day registrations that had been received during early voting.

Closed session

Ms. Griffin moved for the Board to go into closed session for authorized purposes pursuant to GEN. STAT. 143-318.11(a)(3) relating to potential litigation and 143-318.11(a)(1) and (a)(6) to discuss personnel matters. Secretary Baxton seconded that motion, which passed 3-0. The Board began its closed session at 5:15 p.m.

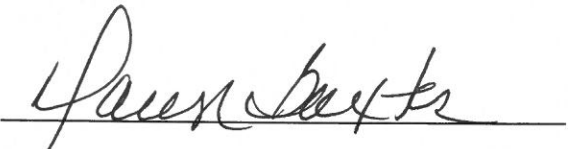
Upon returning to open session at 5:20 p.m., Chairman Brian reported that the Board took no action requiring announcement in open session.

General discussion; adjournment

Mr. Bowens presented an option to the Board to preemptively set a discretionary recount, but only in the event that canvass returns from the October election showed that any contest was close enough to allow a candidate to demand a recount. The purpose of preemptively scheduling a discretionary recount would be to expedite the recount, given that the canvass for the October election will occur on Monday, October 16, 2017 – only three days prior to the scheduled start of early voting for the November election (early voting starting on Thursday, October 19, 2017).

Board members discussed and opted to not preemptively set a recount contingent upon election results. The Board did decide to schedule a possible recount for Wednesday, October 18, but this recount would occur only in the event that a candidate properly entitled to demand a recount does so within the statutory 24-hour time period. This action was made on a motion by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Secretary Baxton, and passing 3-0.

The Board adjourned at 5:30 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Secretary Baxton, and passing 3-0.


Dawn Baxton, Secretary