

JUNE 9, 2020

The Cumberland County Board of Elections met in Room 118 of the Cumberland County Courthouse at 1:00PM for their regular monthly meeting.

Present: Floyd W. Johnson, Jr., Chairman Linda Devore, Secretary
Bobby Swilley, Member Helen Nelson, Member
Irene Grimes, Member Terri Robertson, Director

Staff: Rick Moorefield (County Attorney), Angie Amaro

Guests: Sally Shutt, Glenn Adams, Peter Apone,

Chairman Floyd Johnson called the meeting to Order at 1:00PM, welcomed guests, and presented the Agenda.

ACTION: Secretary Devore moved to adopt the agenda as presented.
Seconded and passed unanimously.

Secretary Devore presented minutes from the last four Board meetings for approval.

ACTION: Member Nelson moved to approve the minutes of the last four meetings
[March 10, 12, 13, and 18].
Seconded and approved unanimously.

Director Robertson reported that staff has been busy assessing our 76 polling sites for the ability to adapt to social distancing. At least 10 sites may have challenges, and we are looking at some alternate sites, or possibly putting two sites together in some cases, just for this November. We are diagramming the precinct spaces, and looking at all options that will allow us to provide adequate space between voting booths. We typically place 12-14 booths or more in each precinct polling site, but this may not be possible with the distancing requirements this year. We have also begun assessing our one-stop sites for social distancing. We do not believe there will be any space problems at Smith Rec Center or Cliffdale Rec Center—the rooms we will use are large. We may not be able to have as many booths as usual, but there will be room for 20-24 booths at each site. The other sites will have fewer booths, and we are still working on these, and looking at adding two new EV sites—Spring Lake and Stoney Point Rec Center, where we can get about 15 booths. We will be able to use a larger room at Hope Mills Rec Center than we have used in the past. Staff will have a plan after we complete all of the site assessments. Some of the election day sites that we have concerns with may be ok, but not all have responded yet with the information we requested.

Eastover-02 at Baywood church. Based on past experience, we believe the space is not large enough.

CC-09 at Christ Village Conference Center. They have not yet responded to our request for larger space. We are looking at the possibility of a church in the area.

Pearce's Mill 03 at the Board of Education Admin Building. We are still looking at options here.

Pearce's Mill 04 is a small 2-bay Fire Station.

CC-28-1 at Fuller Rec Center. We are asking for a larger space within the building.
CC-28-2 is another small Fire Station. We may need to look for an alternate site for this election.

Auman-02 at West Regional Library. The space we have been using is small, but we need to look at it.

CC-06 at Margaret Willis Elementary. We have used sectioned-off space in the cafeteria, so we need to look at the size of the entire cafeteria.

CC-10 is another small 2-bay fire station. There is a possibility of merging with CC-11, Massey Hill Rec Center, at least for this election. MHRC has a very large area.

Hope Mills -2A is the Cotton Fire Station. We have not gotten out to assess the space yet.

CC-05 at Ramsey St Alternative HS. There is a history of problems with voters and workers falling on steep concrete stairs. Handicap accessibility is challenging—there is a possibility of merging with CC-19 at the VFW just down the street, which has a huge room.

Empty commercial space is a possibility suggested by the State Board, however, it is not available where we need it.

Member Swilley inquired about the timeline for letting the public know of any site changes.

Director Robertson assured Board Members that recommended changes will be brought to the Board this summer, and in plenty of time to meet the notice requirements, and hopefully at our July meeting. We are working on sites and worker training now.

Member Nelson inquired about options if we are unable to identify an alternate site, and whether we would have to go with fewer voting booths.

Director Robertson responded that fewer booths create lines, so we want to avoid that. Though there are projections for 30-50% absentee voting, we have to be prepared for every scenario with adequate voting capacity.

Filing for Soil & Water began yesterday [June 8th] at noon, and will close July 6th at noon. School Board filing will begin July 6th at 8:00AM and close August 7th at noon. We have advised candidates that they can mail their filing documents, as long as their paperwork is in our hands by the filing deadline. We asked them to come into the office alone for in-person filing. We will set up space in the hallway outside for pictures. We will be sanitizing before the next candidate comes in.

Member Grimes inquired about what the Board Members can do to assist in the process, if the number of absentee ballots skyrockets.

Director Robertson responded that we will have to figure this out as we go. Proposed legislation begins absentee meetings two weeks earlier, but there is also a lot of manual work to get all of the absentee ballots mailed out. We may need additional temp staff for this.

Member Nelson inquired about precautions for the pollworkers who will be interacting with voters.

Director Robertson responded that there will be PPE [personal protective equipment] for pollworkers. We have also asked our workers to help us design changes that will help with social distancing, including the possibility of using double tables at check-in for spacing. A

challenge with spacing is that voters are often uncomfortable with stating their name and address loud enough for the worker to hear even when they are close. If the currently proposed legislation passes, the state will may provide the counties with faceshields, masks, gloves, single-use pens, and sanitizer for each of the precincts. We will not be giving out "I Voted" stickers. Workers will sanitize in between voters in each booth.

Secretary Devore inquired whether we will be able to expand curbside voting for those who may be at greater risk.

Director Robertson explained that the law already includes age or disability. We expect voters at greater risk will use curbside voting under our current state statute. We will do everything we can to be prepared for more curbside. The sanitization after each voter will also likely increase the number of workers needed in each precinct.

We are also looking at different training methods to replace large group training. On-line refresher may be sufficient for more experienced workers, but there will still be a need for some hands-on, particularly for new workers. We will likely need more workers at every site with the sanitization requirements.

Director Robertson reported that a purchase order has been submitted for our Express Vote equipment, as well as two more Ballot-on-Demand systems. The Ballot-On-Demand equipment, will allow us to print ballots for absentee requests and for two EV additional sites.

Member Nelson inquired whether the additional workers needed for sanitizing will need to be trained to the same level as our other workers, or just specifically for sanitizing.

Director Robertson responded that the sanitizing work will likely be rotated among the trained precinct workers.

Secretary Devore inquired whether we will be looking at increasing pay for our frontline workers.

Director Robertson responded that we have not reviewed that yet, but our county pay for pollworkers has, in the past, been in line with other large counties.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:39PM.

Next scheduled meeting: July 14, 1:00PM

Submitted by,



Linda Devore, Secretary

Alfred P. Mason Jr

Chairman

Bobby D. Sulley

Member

Director

Melend Nelson

Member

James E. Gies

Member