

August 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on August 17th, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Cumberland County Board of Elections (Classroom) by the Chair.

Present: Helen Nelson - Chair
Linda Devore - Member
Irene Grimes - Secretary

James Baker - Member (by phone)
Billy King - Member

Guests: see attendance list (attached)

ACTION: Member Grimes moves that Member Baker be allowed to participate by phone due to public safety reasons resulting from an exposure to COVID19.

Second: Member Devore

Vote: Unanimous in favor

ACTION: Member Grimes moves that the Board approve the minutes of the April 2021 and July 2021 Board Meetings.

Second: Member King

Vote: Unanimous in favor

(Delegation of Authority to the Director had been tabled at the previous meeting). The Director explained that the authority to close voting sites or One Stop sites (in emergency situations) cannot be delegated and that only the Board has the authority to close such sites.

ACTION: Member Grimes moves that the Board approve the Delegation of Authority to the Director as circulated.

Second: Member Devore

Vote: Unanimous in favor

A short discussion ensued about the appointment of Precinct Officials. BOE staff explained that every effort had been made to incorporate Party chairs' recommendations into the appointments but that some people that had been proposed could not be contacted or declined to serve. Staff explained that some of these individuals remain on the appointment list, but that they can be replaced at a later date if necessary.

ACTION: Member Grimes moves that we appoint Election Chief Judges & Election Judges as presented by the Staff of the Board of Elections.

Second: Member King

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The Director is proposing that voters from very small precincts are transferred to adjoining larger precincts in order to help the smaller municipalities in the county reduce the cost of the election. In Hope Mills that would reduce the precinct number from 12 to 6 thus reducing the costs for Hope Mills.

ACTION: Member King moves that the town of Falcon's request to move their municipal election to their Town Hall be granted.

Second: Member Grimes

Vote: Unanimous in favor

ACTION: Member King moves that 182 voters be moved from Cumberland 03 precinct (G8C) to Cumberland 1A precinct; that 12 voters be moved from Cumberland 04 precinct (G8A) to Cumberland 1A Precinct (G8B); that 177 voters be moved from Hope Mills 2B precinct (G9B-2) to Hope Mills 2A precinct (G9B-1); that 8 voters be moved from Pearce's Mill 2A precinct (G3A-1) to Hope Mills 3 precinct (G9A); that 27 voters be moved from Pearce's Mill 2B precinct (G3A-2) to Hope Mills 3 precinct (G9A); and that 370 voters be moved from Stoney Point 1 precinct (G10C) to Stoney Point 2 precinct (G10A).

Second: Member Devore

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Next the Director proposes that 4 voters be moved from Judson Vander Precinct (G1B) to Eastover 01 Precinct (EO61-1) for the purposes of voting in the Eastover Sanitary District Election.

ACTION: Member Devore moves that four voters be temporarily transferred from Judson Vander Precinct to Eastover 01 precinct just for this election.

Second: Member Baker

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The Director proposes that 605 voters be moved from Manchester Precinct (G11B) to Spring Lake 03 (SL78-3). This appears to be a large number but in 2019 two voters voted and in 2017 three voters voted (out of the 605).

ACTION: Member Devore moves that 605 voters be temporarily transferred from Manchester Precinct to Spring Lake 03 Precinct.

Second: Member Baker

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Next on the agenda is the One Stop Plan for Cumberland County. The Director proposes the minimum allowed, which is Board of Elections Office, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and October 30 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Early voting starts the third Thursday before the election, and none of the municipalities have asked for anything else.

Member Grimes inquired if that last Saturday are the only weekend hours; Member Devore says that typically not too many voters come in from the small municipalities and that it is mostly Fayetteville voters that vote early. Member Grimes inquired if there is any flexibility in the hours and Director Robertson explains that if anything other than the minimum hours are set, the small municipalities will have to carry the cost.

ACTION: Member King moves that the One Stop Plan for the County be approved as presented.

Second: Member Devore

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Member Devore asks for clarification for the meeting schedule - there will not be any absentee ballots to consider on September 25th and October 5th as the ballots are not being sent out until October 4th.

ACTION: Member Devore moves that the Absentee Meetings set for September 25th and October 5th be canceled.

Second: Member King

Vote Unanimous in favor.

Member Grimes initiated a discussion ensues about the fact that Board members' contact information is not readily available and members of the public cannot contact Board members directly. The Director does not recommend putting direct information out and explains that in the past, members of the public have called the office and asked for a member's contact information, they have taken that person's information and passed it along to the Board Member Several members agree with the Director. No action was taken.


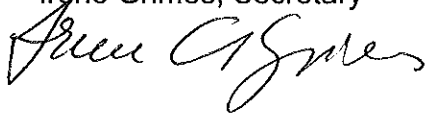
Adjournment

Motion: Member King

Second: Member Grimes

Chair Nelson adjourns the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

Submitted by,
Irene Grimes, Secretary



Helen Nelson, Chair

James H. Baker, Member



Linda Devore, Member



Billy R. King



Terri Robertson, Director