

Meeting Minutes of the Sussex County Electoral Board

October 29, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Ronald Hicks, Electoral Board Chair, called the meeting of the Sussex County Electoral Board to order at 1:09 p.m. at the Law Library on the second floor of the Sussex County Courthouse.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: The purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the upcoming November 3 election and to discuss election personnel matters in Closed Session, as set forth on the Agenda.

ROLL CALL: Electoral Board Members present at the meeting were:

Ronald Hicks, Electoral Board Chair
Glover Pegram, Electoral Board Vice Chair
Al Peschke, Electoral Board Secretary

Also present were:

William R. Jenkins, General Registrar of Sussex County
Sareese Messier, Assistant Registrar of Sussex County
Vincent Robertson, Commonwealth Attorney for Sussex County

It was determined that a quorum was established and the meeting properly convened, and certified that Notice for the meeting was properly posted as required by law.

MINUTES:

- Secretary Peschke read minutes from the July 15 Meeting. On motion made by Mr. Peschke and seconded by Mr. Pegram, the minutes were approved as read.

AGENDA:

Old Business.

- Mr. Hicks was provided with a copy of Ms. Braswell's resignation letter.

New Business.

- Mr. Jenkins provided a report on Early Voting, Absentee Voting and Training of Election Officials. The Registrar's Office is currently seeing approximately 100 early voters a day. The Central Absentee Precinct voting machine, representing people who voted in person at the Registrar's office, has counted around 1,200 ballots. An additional 589 ballots were submitted by mail and are in the safe, waiting to be fed into the voting machine on election day. Another 234 ballots requested have been sent out, but have not yet been mailed back. Six people who requested ballots returned them unmarked, so those six people can still vote if they so request. These numbers represents approximately 27 percent of Sussex County voters and Mr. Jenkins estimates 35 percent will have voted before election day.
- Mr. Jenkins noted that in cases where a voter returned a ballot not conforming to instructions, the Registrar's office contacted the voter to give them an opportunity to repair the error. No ballot has been rejected.

- The last day to register to vote in this election was October 13, but the date was extended by the Governor until October 16 due to equipment malfunction in Chesterfield.
- Mr. Hicks mentioned he would like to consider having a satellite location for early voting on the west side of the county. Mr. Peschke felt that would not be feasible due to the cost involved and shared a newspaper article in which Mr. Jenkins discussed safe voting options. Mr. Jenkins pointed out that voters have 45 days before the election to submit mail-in ballots.
- The West Wakefield precinct will be located in a larger room in the same building where it has been located in the past to provide more space for voters.
- Fire trucks at Stony Creek Fire House will be moved to allow more room for voting.
- At 1:47 p.m. Mr. Peschke moved to convene the Electoral Board to closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia to discuss a personnel matter. Non-Board members were excused. Mr. Jenkins was invited into closed session for consultation.
- Reconvening in Open Session. At 1:52 p.m. Mr. Peschke moved to return to open session. By roll call the Board certified that to each party's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Virginia law and identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered. Any participant not so certifying was asked to so state and indicate why. No participant declined to certify. A vote of Yay or Nay was taken from each Electoral Board Member, as follows:

Mr. Hicks - Yay
 Mr. Pegram - Yay
 Mr. Peschke - Yay

- Mr. Peschke moved to accept the new poll workers discussed in closed session as Independents. Mr. Pegram seconded, and Mr. Hicks abstained. The motion carried.

Adjournment:

- Mr. Hicks moved to adjourn, Mr. Pegram seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Al Peschke, Secretary
 Sussex County Electoral Board