

Meeting Minutes  
Powhatan County Electoral Board  
8/4/2020

Present:

Mrs. Karen Alexander, Director of Elections

Mr. Frank Flannagan, Chair of the Electoral Board

Mrs. Josephine Goodman, Vice Chair of the Electoral Board

Mrs. Andrea Weber, Secretary of the Electoral Board

The Powhatan County Electoral Board meeting was called to order at 9:37 AM. Chairman Flannagan requested the record show that the meeting was held in hybrid with Mr. Flannagan, Mrs. Goodman and Mrs. Alexander were present in person. Mrs. Weber attended virtually via ZOOM video.

The meeting discussion began with a focus on Agenda Item 2: CARES Act funding and spending related to COVID and the election in November. Mrs. Alexander requested two more OVO scanners and buckets for the Courthouse and CAP precinct. Cost is estimated at \$10,000 for both.

Mr. Flannagan moved to spend CARES act funds for the OVO scanners. Mrs. Weber seconded. All approved.

Meeting progressed to discussion of Agenda Item 3: drive through voting tent for Absentee voting. Tenting would need to be setup by September 18<sup>th</sup> (first day of Absentee Voting). Staffing would be required to man the tent. The suggestion is to use existing poll workers (who would be technically temporary Assistant Registrars). This would also provide additional training. It would allow us to not have to create a satellite voting location. Mr. Flannagan asked Mrs. Alexander to walk us through the entire process from setup, voting and end of day shutdown and security. Workers would be staffed from 9-5 each business day.

Mrs. Weber moved to approve the drive through. Mrs. Goodman seconded. All approved.

Meeting progressed to Agenda Item 4: Absentee Ballots. Mr. Flannagan asked Mrs. Alexander to provide more information regarding Absentee Ballot handling after the Electoral Board received contradictory information during their annual ELECT training. Mrs. Alexander reiterated that Powhatan's existing process and protocol for managing Absentee Ballots is consistent with the law and not the training that was provided. The ballot drop box was discussed. Absentee ballots process was discussed in depth. Mr. Flannagan asked for more information regarding the change in the law that states that any ballot that is postmarked on Election Day and received by Friday will be counted. Mrs. Alexander says that this will require a second canvass.

Meeting continued to Agenda Item 5: Precinct changes. The Powhatan Office of Elections is preparing for alternatives to Blessed Sacrament and St. John Neumann. Mrs. Goodman made a motion to move Flat Rock precinct to the Powhatan High School and for the Courthouse precinct to move to Powhatan Middle School. Mr. Flannagan seconded, all approved. Mr. Flannagan moves to allow Mr. Flannagan and Mrs. Alexander, in the essence of time, to review the Red Lane area and WeightPack locations as alternatives to Blessed Sacrament. Mrs. Weber seconded, all approved.

Meeting continued to discuss Agenda Item 6: Chamber of Commerce donation opportunity. Board discussed and agreed to table until a later time

Meeting continued to a discussion regarding Agenda Item 7. The board discussed St. Luke's Church Parking lot and the sidewalk safety options. Board endeavors to think through options. Mrs. Alexander shared that she will engaged Sheriff Nunnally for support as well as VDOT signage.

Meeting continued to discuss Agenda Item 8. New poll books have been identified and purchased. They're called PollPads and connected to our existing election ballot system, ESO. November is not ideal to introduce new poll books but COVID shut down production and the State Election delays in certifications. Paper poll books are now legally required and will create additional work to prepare for elections.

Meeting continued to review Agenda Item 9. The trailer we have been borrowing to transport election cages is no longer in the control of the county. Mrs. Alexander is requesting funding to our budget to purchase an enclosed trailer with the specifications needed to support the cage volumes. Mrs. Alexander has requested help from the Electoral Board to search out a trailer that can accommodate our needs. Mr. Flannagan is going to research a trailer location on 460.

The final meeting discussion centered on Agenda Item 10 and 11: Election Official trainings. All of the notices and oaths have been sent to Elections Officials. Mrs. Alexander is receiving notices with RSVPs. New officials are coming on board. Mrs. Alexander will offer three separate trainings: New officials, repeat workers and chief and assistant chief training.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Flannagan at 11:08 AM.



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Andrea Weber  
Secretary of the Powhatan County Electoral Board