



SURRY COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Members Present: Dwayne Carter
Bill Hamlin
Drew Poindexter
Don Isaacs
Jerry Forestieri

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Michella Huff

The Surry County Board of Elections met in the Surry County Board of Elections meeting room at 915 E. Atkins Street, Dobson, NC on February 17, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

Chairman Carter opened the meeting and minutes from the December 11, 2020 meeting were approved as presented.

Director Huff gave the board reports of total grant sources, HAVA and CARES funding for the 2020 Election period. Total awarded was \$329,562.36; this includes the HAVA award granted on January 29, 2021. Total spent to date is \$180,640.35. Board of Elections Federal CARES Act balance is \$21,429.53. If unspent by March 31, 2021 this balance will be sent back to NCSBE.

Hazard pay was discussed, and the resolution dated November 19, 2020 was amended and passed unanimously. It amends the original Hazard Pay Due to COVID-19 of a lump sum of \$20,000 to a per hour supplement rate for BOE staff. The term "Hazard Pay Due to COVID-19" will be replaced with "Supplemental Pay from Board of Elections Federal CARES Act funding."

Director Huff asked the board about the part time pay for the upcoming 2021-2022 budget requests for Board of Elections PT staff. After the 2020 election period ending on December 31, 2020 the pay of \$12 and \$13 per hour changed back to \$9 and \$10 per hour. The Director recommended the rate of pay for the 2021-2022 budget year be at the rate of \$12 and \$13 per hour beginning July 1, 2021. A motion was made with a second and a unanimous vote was held.

Director Huff will get with MIS Director Martha Brintle to get a quote on upfitting the Farm Bureau meeting room with HAVA grant funding.

There being no further action the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Chair

Secretary

Member

Member

Member



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Members Absent:

Staff Present: Michella Huff

The Surry County Board of Elections met in the Surry County Board of Elections meeting room at 915 E. Atkins Street, Dobson, NC on April 12, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

Chairman Carter opened the meeting and minutes from the February 17, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

Director Huff presented the proposed 2021-2022 Budget for Board of Elections. The total budget request was for \$774,242. If Mount Airy Municipal Elections are moved to even-year as proposed in the NC House, the budget would be amended to remove the requests to hold the MA election in 2021. Also discussed, was the four OneStop locations for the 2022 election year. Director Huff did allocate funds to have Mount Airy, Pilot Mountain, Dobson and Elkin OneStop locations.

Calendars were given to board members for the tentative election year to include filing periods and election dates for 2021. If H282 passes as presented the schedule would be change removing all elections and only having the December 2021 filing period for candidates who will run in 2022.

The board was presented a summary of legal updates and changes from NCSBE. Highlights from the summary include:

- BallotTrax will stay in place for future elections for voters to track their absentee by mail ballot
- New absentee envelopes will be needed for future elections requiring two witness signatures or a notary
- Photo ID is currently in trial and still undetermined
- The deadline for returning absentee by mail ballots will now be the Friday after election day for future elections.

- OneStop hours will remain the same as the 2019 election schedule.
- Absentee by mail requests will not be accepted by fax or email for future elections.

In other business, the CARES Act BOE fund balance will be sent back to NCSBE. CTCL and USC Schwarzenegger grant funds will be sent back in full per the vote of the BOCC.

Discussion was held on the focus of the Board of Elections Office this year. The goal is to create videos to educate the public and especially pollworkers for this year and for future use.

There being no further action the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Chair

Secretary

Member

Member

Member



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Don Isaacs
Jerry Forestieri

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Michella Huff

The Surry County Board of Elections met in the Surry County Board of Elections meeting room at 915 E. Atkins Street, Dobson, NC on June 15, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

Chairman Carter opened the meeting and minutes from the April 12, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

Board member Bill Hamlin removed his name for reappointment. Party Chairs must submit nominees to North Carolina State Board of Elections by June 29, 2021. Deputy Director, Angie Harrison prepared new notebooks for both party chairs and mailed them out by the end of May 2021.

Mount Airy Even-Year Elections Session Law 2021-27 HB282 passed on June 2, 2021. The filing period for Mount Airy Municipal will now be held in December of odd years prior to the even-year election. This will still be a nonpartisan primary and election that will be held in even-numbered years. The primary would be held at the same time as the statewide primary (the Tuesday after the first Monday in March of the even-numbered year) and the statewide general election (the Tuesday after the first Monday in November of the even-numbered year). In related matters to the City of Mount Airy, Ron Niland was appointed Mayor in May 2021 and a special election will be held in conjunction to the other offices of Mayor and Commissioner in 2022 for his Commissioner At-Large seat. Filing for this seat will be held in December 2021 as well.

Surry County received \$70,158 in HAVA funds for the 2020 fiscal year. HAVA funds must be spent or encumbered by June 30, 2021. The Director gave an update on items purchased and asked the board to proceed with purchasing 12 Franklin style voting booths and 28 blue cones with "NO ELECTIONEERING" signs for all 28 precincts. This will take care of the remaining \$12,500 balance in the HAVA grant. A fourth BOD system and 4 laptops were purchased for Pilot Mountain OneStop

making all OneStops uniform in voting method. The tempered glass and countertop reconfiguration should be complete by the end of July making the BOE lobby more secure. The new Absentee by Mail BOD printer for Unity should be in by the end of July.

In other business, discussion was had about the Surry County BOE getting a .gov address. The county IT Director is working on Surry County becoming a .gov and is in the middle of the lengthy process, updates will be provided.

Elections Specialist, Sydney Bedsaul Romine created a QR code for scanning to connect quickly to our website.

The Deputy Director has been corresponding with Maple Grove United Methodist Church as a possible new polling place for Stewarts Creek #2.

The Director highlighted items from Numbered Memo 2021-03 concerning Absentee Container-Return Envelope Deficiencies for the 2021 election year. This will not affect Surry County due to no elections in 2021.

The board went into closed session to discuss personnel matters. No action was taken during the closed session.

While back in open session the board made a motion and voted unanimously to give authority to the Director to select and interview candidates for the vacant Elections Clerk position.

There being no further action the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Chair

Secretary

Member

Member

Member



SURRY COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Meeting Minutes July 29, 2021

Members Present: Dwayne Carter
Jerry Forestieri
Drew Poindexter
Tim DeHaan
Clerk Comer

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Angie Harrison, Michella Huff

Others Present: Bryant Brantley

The Surry County Board of Elections met in the Surry County Board of Elections meeting room at 915 E. Atkins Street, Dobson, NC on July 29, 2021 at 10:00 am.

Chairman Carter called the meeting to order.

The board held a preliminary consideration hearing in the matter of a challenge to Tyler Maxwell Clodfelter voter registration filed by Bryant Brantley, 107 Buena Vista Drive, Pilot Mtn, NC 27041 on July 23, 2021.

Mr. Brantley, after being sworn in by the Board Chair, presented his case. Mr. Brantley presented a North Carolina ID Card from the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles delivered to his home in Tyler Maxwell Clodfelter's name. He also presented a letter from Senator Phil Berger congratulating Tyler Maxwell Clodfelter on his recent voter registration at Mr. Brantley's address.

Clark Comer made motion that sufficient evidence to find probable cause had been presented to warrant a full challenge hearing. Tim DeHaan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The full hearing will be scheduled, and notices will be sent to the challenged voter, the challenger and both political party chairs within 10 days.

There being no further action the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.

Chair

Secretary

Member

Member

Member



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Members Present: Dwayne Carter
Drew Poindexter
Tim DeHaan
Jerry Forestieri

Members Absent: Clark Comer

Staff Present: Michella Huff

The Surry County Board of Elections met in the Surry County Board of Elections meeting room at 915 E. Atkins Street, Dobson, NC on July 20, 2021 12:00 pm.

**The board members for 2021-2023 were sworn in at noon by Surry County Commissioner Chairman, Mark Marion. All members except Clark Comer who was sworn in at 4:00 pm by Chairman Dwayne Carter.

Chairman Carter opened the meeting and minutes from the June 15, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

Chairman Carter introduced the board to newly sworn in board member Tim DeHaan.

Drew Poindexter made a motion that was seconded by Tim DeHaan to nominate Jerry Forestieri as board Secretary. The motion passed unanimously. Jerry will serve as Secretary for the 2021-2023 period.

In other business, the board voted to purchase desk clocks and do resolutions to recognize Bill Hamlin and Don Isaacs for their years of service and dedication to the Surry County Board of Elections.

Interviews for the vacant Elections Clerk position will be held on July 21-23rd.

The remaining purchases with HAVA funds are: Lobby construction of glass and counter, BOD printer for Absentee by Mail, laptops for Pilot Mountain OneStop BOD system and 12 Franklin style voting booths. All have been ordered and should be complete or delivered by mid to late August.

The Deputy Director has been corresponding with Maple Grove United Methodist Church as a possible new polling place for Stewarts Creek #2. The church approved their fellowship hall for use of a voting site. Staff will coordinate a time to do the ADA survey within the coming weeks to get this site approved by NCSBE.

The board voted to have the next meeting on August 17, 2021 at 2:00 pm to appoint precinct judges.

There being no further action the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Chair

Secretary

Member

Member

Member



SURRY COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Members Present: Dwayne Carter
Tim DeHaan
Clark Comer

Members Absent: Drew Poindexter and Jerry Forestieri

Staff Present: Michella Huff

The Surry County Board of Elections met in the Surry County Board of Elections meeting room at 915 E. Atkins Street, Dobson, NC on August 17, 2021 2:00 pm.

Chairman Carter opened the meeting and minutes from the July 20, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

The board was presented with the 2021-2023 Precinct Officials as appointed. A motion to approve was made by Tim DeHaan and a second was made by Clark Comer to approve the list as presented.

The Director presented the board members with copies of the 2022 Election Calendar for Surry County elections. The Candidate Chart was also presented and discussed for the 2022 election cycle.

The board tabled the Remote Participation Policy and resolution until further information can be gathered. The Director will speak with the County Clerk and to NCSBE for examples of their policies and report back to the board at the next meeting.

There being no further action the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Chair

Secretary

Member

Member

Member



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Tim DeHaan
Jerry Forestieri
Clark Comer

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Michella Huff

The Surry County Board of Elections met in the Surry County Board of Elections meeting room at 915 E. Atkins Street, Dobson, NC on September 23, 2021 4:00 pm.

Past Surry County Board of Elections members Bill Hamlin and Don Isaacs were recognized with resolutions and clocks for their service to Surry County and the board.

Chairman Carter opened the meeting and minutes from the August 17, 2021 meeting and the August 18, 2021 Challenge Hearing were approved as presented.

The Director presented the resolution to move Stewarts Creek #2 precinct from Pine Ridge Volunteer Fire Department to Maple Grove United Methodist Church, 1892 Pine Ridge Road, Mount Airy NC. This move will keep the voting place within the precinct boundary of Stewarts Creek #2. This will be a permanent transfer and all registered voters of precinct 26 will be notified before 30 days prior to the opening of early voting in 2022. Notification in a newspaper 45 days prior to the opening of early voting in 2022 will occur as well. A motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously. The resolution was signed by all board members.

The Director presented the board with a temporary transfer of the Bryan precinct from Mountain Park Elementary School to Mountain Park Baptist Church, 393 Mtn. Park Road State Road NC. The temporary transfer will be effective for the March 8, 2022 Primary Election. A motion was made and seconded and passed after dialogue and discussion. Staff will contact the church about a possible permanent transfer to the church for future elections and bring it back to the board for a vote.

The board discussed the sample remote participation policies provided and determined that more research should be done before adopting a policy for Surry County Board of Elections. The board asked staff to contact NCSBE for a copy of their policy because the State Board of Elections is still participating remotely, all members except the Executive Director. A motion was made and seconded to table the remote participation policy until we can get guidance from NCSBE. The motion passed.

In other business, the Director reported on a successful Wellness Check performed on September 15, 2021 by our SST Gary Hardee and Matt Stone with NCSBE.

Our current Mount Airy #2 precinct building has been placed on the market for sale by Surry County. The board discussed the possibilities of moving the precinct to another building within Mount Airy #2. The board discussed moving the precinct to Mount Airy Combined. The Director spoke with NCSBE and we can combine the precincts and stay under the 6,000-voter threshold that they recommend. Mount Airy Combined and Mount Airy #2 precincts together would be 4,430 voters. Our largest precinct is Elkin having 4,255 voters in comparison. The board has asked the Director to research this more for discussion at the next meeting.

There being no further action the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Chair

Secretary

Member

Member

Member



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Tim DeHaan
Jerry Forestieri
Clark Comer

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Michella Huff

The Surry County Board of Elections met in the Surry County Board of Elections meeting room at 915 E. Atkins Street, Dobson, NC on November 3, 2021 3:00 pm.

Chairman Carter opened the meeting and minutes from the September 23, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

The Director reported on the vacancy of the Board Secretary position held by Jerry Forestieri upon his resignation on September 26, 2021. The resignation was due to his wife's consideration to run for Surry County Board of Education. Jerry was disqualified from serving on the Surry County Board of Elections. On October 25, 2021 Jerry asked for his resignation to be rescinded. On October 30, 2021, Lindsey Wakely, Associate General Counsel with NCSBE notified Surry County staff of Jerry's resignation was allowed to be rescinded. At that time, he continued his service to the board. Jerry remained a member of the board due to no action had occurred at the NCSBE regarding his vacancy and Mrs. Forestieri had not formalized her candidacy. The State Republican party was comfortable with this approach and Surry County Board of Elections was notified upon the decision. Research back to the 1800's and early 1900's on rescinded resignations was looked at during the week between Jerry's request and NCSBE decision.

The Director presented the resolution to move Mount Airy #2 (13) precinct from L.H. Jones Family Resource Center, 215 Jones School Road, Mount Airy to Mount Airy Combined (31), Grace Moravian Church Fellowship Hall, 1401 North Main Street, Mount Airy. The county voted to surplus L.H. Jones Family Resource Center in September 2021. Therefore, the board of elections will not know who the potential building owner may be if/when sold. This will be a permanent transfer and all registered voters of the Mount Airy #2 (13) will be notified 30 days prior to the opening of early voting in 2022. Notification in a newspaper 45 days prior to the opening of early voting in 2022 will occur as well. A

motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously. The resolution was signed by all board members. Recommendations by the board concerning the size of the photo on the letter to voters of the new polling place. Staff will enlarge the picture and the font for easier viewing.

The Surry County Board of Elections received notification in late August 2021 from North Carolina State Board of Elections that precinct boundary lines in Surry County differ from State lines. The new lines provided to Surry County Board of Elections was determined by the General Assembly after Session Law 2019-16 to allow the State of North Carolina to continue with the Voter District Verification Project with the United States Bureau of the Census. Affected voters received notification by way of voter registration cards as updates to our database which occurred in the month of October 2021. The voter verification cards reflected their new precinct, new House/Senate (handful were affected) and new commissioner district. Approximately 1,230 voters were affected and around 600 address points. As a courtesy, the Director will inform the Surry County Board of Commissioners about the updates for information purposes. Commissioner district changes resulting from the NCSBE boundary updates affected 468 of the 1,230 voters. The altered lines affected voters in the following:

- 343 from MA District to Central District
- 97 from Central District to South District
- 28 from Central District to South District

County Manager Knopf and the GIS Department received the 2020 census data. Commissioner districts are out of balance significantly especially in the Central District. Census data along with recent redistricting affects the districts even more. County Manager Knopf wants to approach the County Commissioners to take this topic up in the 2022 annual retreat for discussion and consideration for the 2023 calendar year.

There being no other business and no further action the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 pm.

Chair

Secretary

Member

Member

Member