



SURRY COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Members Present: Dwayne Carter - Chairman
Drew Poindexter - Secretary
Barbara Cave
Clark Comer
Jimmy Yokeley

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Michella Huff and Sydney Romine

Guests: Roger Cave

The Surry County Board of Elections met in the Board of Elections meeting room at 915 E. Atkins Street, Dobson, NC, on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Carter opened the absentee board meeting portion of the meeting by reading the conflict-of-interest statement.

The minutes from the January 5, 2024, meeting were approved as presented.

No speakers participated in the public forum portion of the meeting.

Director Huff presented the board with Primary Election Absentee Ballot procedures for the March 5, 2024 Primary. One difference in procedure from 2022 is sorting of ballots with Photo ID requirements. The board has reviewed 20 absentee ballots that are randomly selected for the board to inspect in the past. Any ballot that is presented to the board as recommend disapproval, the board will inspect each of those ballot envelopes and either photo ID's or Exception Forms. Board member Jimmy Yokeley made a motion to adopt the procedures for absentee ballot for the March 5, 2024 Primary as presented with the board viewing 20 randomly selected ballot envelopes. Secretary Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Absentee 2024 Primary Election – 97 absentee ballots have been mailed to voters who have requested per absentee ballot request forms with 5 civilian and 2 military being returned. Director Huff stated staff has recommended approval for those 7 absentee ballots. Director Huff sent the absentee reports

for January 30, 2024, around the table for board signatures. A bipartisan team of board members compared seal numbers from L and A testing on the DS200 absentee tabulator. Deputy Director Sydney Romine opened the DS200 and printed the zero tapes and the zero totals on the tabulator. The absentee ballot envelopes were viewed by each board member. Duplication of two military ballots were performed by board members Clark Comer and Barbara Cave. At the end of all ballots scanning the machine count on the DS200 was 7. The DS200 lid and ballot box door was sealed and verified by board members.

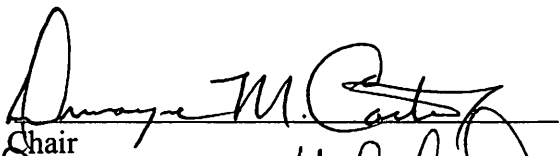
Director Huff briefed the board on a table-top exercise between all 100 county BOE's, NCSBE and NC Emergency Management. Andrew Smith reported on the results of the emergency scenarios as discussed in the 4-hour table-top exercise. The scenarios will be discussed further at the State conference this weekend.

The board was briefed by Director Huff on unaffiliated by petition candidate Judith Barham in the Mount Airy City School District. The required number of approved signatures needed are 109. That is 1.5% of registered voters in the MACS district. Mrs. Barham did present the petition signatures timely, by noon on January 19, 2024. Staff qualified each signature. Mrs. Barham obtained 167 signatures in which 117 were qualified. Director Huff passed each batch of signature sheets around for the board to review. A motion to certify Mrs. Barham as an unaffiliated candidate by petition for the 2024 General Election. *Motion was made by board member Barbara Cave and seconded by Jimmy Yokeley.*

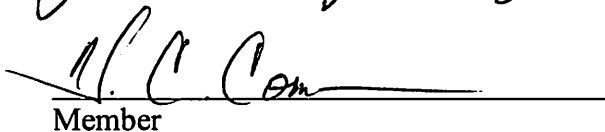
In other business the board was informed of hotel arrangements for the Winter Conference of NCSBE on February 4-6, 2024.

The next absentee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 5:00 pm.

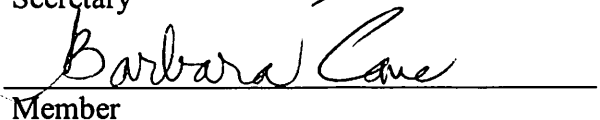
Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.


Chair


Member


Member


Secretary


Member