

Lynchburg Electoral Board Meeting

September 29, 2020

Members present:

Patricia M. Bower, Chair;
David B. Neumeyer, Vice Chair
John W. Cobbs, Secretary

Others present:

Christine Gibbons, General Registrar
Kim Conner, Deputy Registrar
Ryan Zuidema, Police Chief
Deputy Chief of Police
Daniel Meehan, Police Captain
Carrie Duncan-Community Relations Coordinator Police
Chief Hinkley, Liberty University
Don Sloan, Sheriff
Deputy Sheriff
Melissa Foster, Emergency Services Director

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Bower at 1:00 p.m.

Citizen Comments

No citizens present.

New Business

Police Chief, Ryan Zuidema spoke to discuss what the Registrar's Office can and can't expect from the Lynchburg Police Department during the upcoming election on November 3. He explained the difference between offensive behavior versus criminal behavior. The job of the police department is to enforce criminal law. There will be no police officers at polling locations as in the past. Police will drive by often during the day. Police will be available as needed. When citizens are intentionally saying and doing things that are uncomfortable for voters does not constitute criminal activity. Brandishing weapons, intimidation of voters, and disturbance of elections will be monitored by election officials on site. Depending on the situation 911 or the

non-emergency LPD number can be called. Melissa Foster is our office contact for issues regarding polling locations. Ryan Zuidema has frozen staff days off during the days preceding and after the election. No off duty officers are allowed to work inside polling locations.

Chief Hinkley spoke regarding his role on campus during the election. He will be in attendance at the upcoming meeting on campus between election officials and Liberty Univeristy staff members. The 40 ft no campaigning area was discussed as the entrance of the polling location is inside the building.

Don Sloan indicated that his primary role is to work closely with Lynchburg Police Department. The sheriff's office is not the primary contact during elections. The sheriff's office main responsibility is for civil processes in the city.

The following Election Code Sections were shared during the meeting

§24.2-605, §24.2-606, §24.2-607.

Police Chief, Ryan Zuidema, suggested to have copies of this code available for the Chief's to give to any citizens causing disorder outside of the polls. Most of the time citizens are not aware of the limitations and education of those laws can assist in citizens conduct at polling locations. Another suggestion was to include guidance and a script for Chief's when attempting to address violations at the polling locations by citizens.

Next meeting Date October 27, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Ms. Bower adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m. .

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Cobbs, Secretary
Electoral Board
City of Lynchburg