

Lynchburg Electoral Board Meeting
July 24, 2019 6:00 p.m.
Registrar's Office Conference Room

Members present:

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

Others present:

Christine Gibbons, General Registrar
Steve Troxell, Citizen
Jim Weigand, Citizen
Gail Acampora, Citizen
Wendell Walker, District 23 House of Delegate Candidate & Lynchburg
Republican Committee Chair
Eric Harrison, Lynchburg Republican Committee Vice-Chair
Betty Gibbs, Citizen
Hope MacRorie, Citizen
Karen Angulo, Citizen
Gail Acampora, Citizen

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Bower at 4:00 p.m.

Citizen Comments:

Jim Weigand: Came as a citizen not as an official election official for the City of Lynchburg. He wanted to state his concerns and feels that the precincts are not fairly represented by the two parties. He had three suggestions to improve representation of the Republican Party. Have current pollworkers hand out flyers to citizens at elections, city press release, link on website to becoming a pollworker.

Betty Gibbs: Concerns that precinct assignments do not have equal party representation

Karen Angulo: Concerns that precinct assignments do not have equal party representations.

Hope MacRorie: Concerns that government should have transparency.

Open discussion occurred after all citizen comments were taken. Jim Weigand noted that Eric Harrison, Lynchburg Republican Committee Vice-Chair, is an attorney and asked for information on what the law states. Eric Harrison paraphrased sections of the Code of Elections 24.2-115, “ Shall have equal representation, when practicable”. Currently the list of election officials have more democrats than Republicans. Suggestions were made for the Registrar’s Office to provide the Lynchburg Republican Party a flyer with information on becoming an election official. A list of names from the Republican party is due to the Registrar’s Office September 15th.

Consideration of Approval of the Minutes Approval of June 5, 2019 Electoral Board Minutes. Motion made by John Cobbs, Secretary. Seconded by David Neumeyer, Vice Chair. Motion approved unanimously.

Registrar’s Report:

The accident regarding the Summit Bus hitting the overhang at Crosspoint Point at the June elections has been resolved with Summit taking responsibility and the two parties in direct contact. During ELECT training was introduced to the use of Ballot Scout, which tracks the domestic absentee ballots. Office and citizens can begin utilizing the website platform for November election. Suggested in several Cybersecurity training to have at hand the information for the Virginia Fusion Center and inform staff of procedures when receiving an email from an unknown source or if a government computer has been compromised. When electoral board are out of town inform the office as IT does receive alerts when the emails is opened outside of the area. Ballot proofing submissions have begun waiting on ESO for ballot proof. Late filing fees have been resolved for local candidates. VRAV Conference is August 11-14 for general registrar and deputy registrar. Citizen question on access to agenda and recording of electoral board meetings, followed up with the City’s Attorney’s office who gave information from Code of Virginia 2.2-3707. Office is not required to post agenda, however, shall make materials available to public body at the proposed meeting.

Discussion of office coverage for November election with restrictions of full-time staff member hours. Utilizing two election officials as volunteer office staff.

Old Business:

Voting Security: Request that our voting machine vendor, ESO, respond to the issues raised about voting security in the New York Time magazine.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/26/magazine/election-security-crisis-midterms.html>. This discussion was tabled until next meeting.

New Business:

Procedure mentally incapacitated voters:

Office of Registrar receives information from the Court of Clerk's Office regarding voters have been deemed by the courts to be mentally incapacitated. The information is entered in the state system and letters are mailed to the voter/guardian.

Reports from attendees at ELECT's annual Training:

Pat Bower shared her insights to ELECT's annual training all member had similar insights. Legislative updates in particular HB 276, GIS mapping, and Election Security. ELEC will have new procedures on early voting by March 1, 2020. During training tax withholding and how election officials are paid were brought up. Each locality pays election officials differently. Received training on FOIA requests, electronic participation procedures, and placement of recordings during electoral board meetings. Best practice to include public comments time, within three days of approval of meeting minutes shall have minutes on the website and available for public. Best practice to avoid having the general registrar's office cleaned during the absentee time. Discussion and protocol of not using timing marks on ballots that are emailed to military and overseas voters.

Considerations for next year's budget (July 2020-June 2021): This topic was tabled for further consideration as budgeting is due in December.

- Need for additional staffing
- Initial planning for fall 2020 Early No-Excuse Absentee Voting
- Budgeting for attendance for all EB member at annual training

Consideration of executive session to conduct Annual Performance Review of Registrar under Code of Virginia 24.2-109.1

MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

David Neumeyer, Vice Chair moved that the Electoral Board go into closed session pursuant to State Code Section 2.2-3711-(A)(1), for the purpose of discussing issues related to general registrar evaluation. Seconded by John Cobbs, Secretary. Seconded by David Neumeyer, Vice Chair. Motion approved unanimously

§ 2.2-3711(A)(1): Personnel. Provides an exemption for:

Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body

MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

David Neumeyer, moved that the Electoral Board return to public session and certify that only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law, and only public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were hear, discussed, or considered. Seconded by John Cobbs, motion approved unanimously

Next meeting Date August 29, 2019 4:00 p.m. Registrar's Office

There being no further business, Ms. Bower adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Cobbs, Secretary
Electoral Board
City of Lynchburg