



DURHAM COUNTY

Board of Elections

DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Minutes of Board Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 2020 9:00 A.M.

Members present

Phil Lehman, Chairman
Michael Gray, Secretary
Pamela Oxendine, Member
Dawn Baxton, Member
Gregory Irby, Member

Staff present

Derek Bowens, Elections Director
Brenda Baker, Deputy Director
Daniel Lassiter, Elections Manager
Eric Brown, Elections Systems Specialist
Rebecca Troedsson, Elections Specialist
Durham BOE Sample Audit Team

County officials present: N/A

Audience members present: See attendance sheet

Meeting opening

Chairman Lehman called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board meeting was held at 201 E. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701 in Room 126.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Bowens presented the Board with the agenda for the meeting. Following review, Chairman Lehman moved to approve the agenda and all approved, 5-0.

New Business

- a. Sample Audit

- Mr. Gray made a motion for staff to conduct the sample audit count. The motion was approved by all and passed unanimously, 5-0. The sample audit count was conducted for Precincts 21 and 10.
 - Following the sample audit count, Mr. Bowens informed the Board that all hand counts reconciled to machine totals for the sampled precincts.
- b. Review of Absentee Ballots
- After review of the absentee ballot applications, Mr. Irby moved to approve 474 applications and ballots per the recommendation of staff. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baxton and approved by all, 5-0.
 - Ms. Baxton moved to reject 104 applications and ballots per the recommendation of staff. The deficiencies were due to voter and/or witnesses insufficiently completing the absentee return envelope and late returns. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.
 - Following Board review, staff proceeded with ballot duplication and the counting of all approved absentee ballots.

Public Comments and Questions

Public comments and questions were made by three members of the public.

General Discussion

During general discussion, Mr. Bowens gave the Board and the public an update on the malware attack suffered by the County. The Durham County IS&T Department is working around the clock to restore systems for the County, however, there has been no timeframe given as to when systems will be fully restored.

Due to the malware attack, and working with limited resources, Mr. Bowens suggested to the Board that the Canvass meeting scheduled for March 13, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. be rescheduled to March 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in order to give staff more time to research provisional ballots.

Chairman Lehman made a motion to cancel the Canvass meeting scheduled for March 13, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. and to reschedule on March 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Baxton seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Also, during general discussion, Ms. Baxton made a motion for staff to send overnight letters to the five voters whose absentee applications/ballots were being challenged to inform them of the change to their hearing dates. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at approximately 12:50 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Irby. The motion was approved by all, 5-0.

Michael H. Gray

Michael H. Gray
Secretary