

BEDFORD COUNTY ELECTORAL BOARD

Minutes – meeting convened at 11:38 a.m. February 4, 2021 – Office of the GR, Bedford, Virginia.

Electoral Board members Janeta Dudley, Carleen Bowyer, Steven M. (Mike) Waldmann and General Registrar Barbara Gunter were present.

The Electoral Board met to:

- Approve minutes from the September 11, 2020 and November 4, 2020 vote canvass meetings of the Board of Elections
- Reorganize the Bedford County Electoral Board
- Acknowledge the completed recertification as GR by Barbara Gunter
- Discuss the status of the November 4 2020 General Election Audit
- Discuss pending bills in the General Assembly that are related to Elections
- Review status of the Electoral Board and Capital Improvement Plan budgets and new equipment purchases
- Appointment of Officers of Election for a 3 year term beginning in 2021
- Review anticipated election dates in 2021
- Discuss dates and locations for the 45 day early voting periods
- Discuss lessons learned from the 2020 early voting process

BoE Vice Chair Bowyer moved that the minutes from the September 11, 2020 and November 4, 2020 Vote Canvass meetings be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Waldmann and passed with unanimous approval.

The Board was pleased to receive the formal reappointment of Janeta Dudley to the Electoral Board.

Bowyer made a motion to reorganize the Board with Janeta Dudley as Chair, Carleen Bowyer as Vice Chair, and Steven (Mike) Waldmann as Secretary. . The motion was seconded by Waldmann and passed with unanimous approval.

The Board acknowledged the required completion of GR recertification training by GR Barbara Gunter.

GR Gunter outlined the anticipated process for conducting the statewide Risk Limiting Audit of the results from the November 2020 election. Final guidance from the Dept. of Elections is pending. The Audit will be conducted during the week of February 22, 2021.

A brief review of Election related legislation being proposed by the General Assembly was conducted.

The Board and GR discussed the status of the EB budget and funds available in the Capital Improvement Plan for the purchase of new Election equipment. Previously, Board members and the GR had reviewed Electronic Poll Book equipment and related material and software from two state approved and certified vendors: DemTech (Democracy Technologies) and Know Ink. Waldmann made a motion to enter into a purchase contract with DemTech for EPB hardware, software and related materials such as printers, connectivity etc. Bowyer seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote. GR Gunter was asked to begin the purchase process and seek the required approval of the Board of Supervisors.

Waldmann provided a list of Officers of Election and made a motion to appoint the individuals on this list as Officers of Election for a three year term. Bowyer seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote. Waldmann provided a list of Officers of Election who were approved by the Democratic and Republican Party Chairs to represent their respective parties.

The Board entered discussion and review of anticipated 2021 election dates, 45 Day Early Voting periods and locations, and lessons learned from the County's first experience with Early Voting during the November 2020 election. Feedback from the voting public indicated a very high approval level for the Early Voting process. Blocking out 45 day periods for Early Voting two or three times a year presents a significant hardship for facilities being used for Early Voting. GR Gunter indicated that she was already in discussions with the County Administrator on this issue and emphasized the importance of finding a suitable facility that could consistently be used for Early Voting during each election.

Chairwoman Dudley asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

No additional items were discussed during the meeting.

Vice chair Bowyer moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Waldmann and passed by unanimous vote. Chair Dudley declared the meeting adjourned 1:00 p.m.

Steven M. Waldmann, Secretary.
Bedford County Electoral Board