Augusta County Electoral Board

**Approved** Minutes of Meeting

September 17, 2020

South Board Room, Augusta County Government Center

I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:58am. Present were: Cliff

 Garstang, Chair; Marcy Reedy, Vice-Chair; Georgia Alvis-Long, Secretary;

 Connie Evans, General Registrar: and Jaclyn Barton, an observer from the

 News Virginian.

II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting. Marcy moved to approve the minutes

 from the August 19th meeting. Cliff seconded and the motion was approved

 unanimously.

III. Registrar’s Report.

 A. In person set up - Connie reported that the Registrar’s Office had been

 preparing for the start of No Excuse Absentee In Person Voting that would

 begin tomorrow.

 B. Ballot mailing - Connie reported that the Registrar’s Office had been

 working diligently to be able to get the bulk of the 4100- 4200 absentee ballots

 requested, so far, from voters ready to be mailed by tomorrow and that a few

 more may be sent out by Saturday if they had any overflow. She stated that the

 number may fluctuate a little less due to receiving duplicate requests from some

 voters so her office was having to review all requests with a fine tooth comb to

 ensure that the voter only received one ballot.

IV. Continuing Business.

 A. Approve OEs.

 Tamara Cameron

 Melissa Davidson

 April Dovel

 Emily Girard

 Michelle Gregory

 Eric Hanson

 Mona Huffer

 Craig McCue

 Gayle McCue

 Cheryl Pianko

 David Piguet

 Kristy Porter

 Matthew Poteat

 Michael Robinson

 Stephen Satterlee

 Christiana Shields

 Laura Thurman

 Marcy moved to appoint all names submitted as new OEs with their term

 ending on February 28, 2022. Cliff seconded and the motion was approved

 unanimously.

V. New Business.

 A. White Hill complaints - Send notices?

 Connie reported that she had received a handful of calls regarding the precinct

 location change made for the June Primary from White Hill Church of the

 Brethren to Riverheads High School and that now it had returned back to White

 Hill for the November election. Disucssion ensued and it was decided that a

 letter would be sent to all White Hill voters with the explanation provided as to

 why the temporary location change had to be made and that voting would

 resume at White Hill Church of the Brethren.

 B. CAP location for pre-processing - room for observers?

 Connie reported that the BOS Conference room had been reserved for pre-

 processing. Discussion ensued and it was decided that due to the rooms

 limited volume capacity 2 observers would be allowed at one time, along with

 the 5 CAP Officers.

 C. Revisit start of CAP (keeping AB cure in mind).

 Discussion ensued. It was decided that no change in the start date, of October

 15th, would be needed at this time.

 D. DOJ - Update.

 Cliff reported that he had been on a conference call with Elizabeth Johnson,

 from the DOJ, Candy Hensley, and Jim Benkahla. Ms. Johnson wanted to

 point out some minor concerns that she had seen in a few of our precincts back

 in June 2019. She did state that it had been a pleasure working with the County

 and that she holds us up as an example to other localities that have issues. Cliff

 went on to explain the individual precinct areas of concern that she would like to

 see addressed for this election. Discussion ensued as to how to go about

 making the requested changes to the named precinct concerns. It was then

 decided to take pictures of those changes to send to the DOJ, along with our

 required ones, in order to show our compliance with the Consent Decree. Cliff

 stated there were plans to have another conference call after the

 election to wind things up for completion to the 5-year Consent Decree.

VI. Other Business.

 A. Public Comments. Ms. Barton asked 3 questions.

 1. Approximately how many registered voters does Augusta County have?

 Cliff responded that there were currently a little over 50,000.

 2. How many more Mail In Absentee Ballots do you anticipate to be requested?

 Cliff stated that his projection, in total, was approximately10, 000.

 3. What was the reason for the White Hill precinct change for the June Primary?

 Marcy explained that when the Governor changed the date for conducting the

 June Primary from the 9th to the 23rd the White Hill Church of the Brethren was

 not available due to Vacation Bible School being held that week. The location

 change from the church to Riverheads High School was made for that election

 and for that reason only.

 B. Board Member Comments. Discussion ensued on Drop Boxes. During the

 time of Absentee Voting the drop box outside of the Government Center can be

 used, along with one that voters will be able to use in the GRs office. On

 Election Day there will be 1 secured box at each precinct that will be located at

 the Greeters table.

 Georgia and Cliff mentioned that Jolivue would like to move their voting location

 from the foyer to the Gymnasium and Mount Solon wanted to move theirs from

 the Community Room to the Gymnasium. Both location changes would not

 affect the entrance that the voters would use to the buildings and that it was

 being done solely to allow for a larger room to enable more volume capacity with

 social distancing. Also, both rooms meet handicap requirements. It was

 unanimously decided to allow for the location changes.

 VII. Adjournment. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:59am.

Respectfully submitted,



Georgia Alvis-Long, Secretary