

July 8, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

The Tazewell County Electoral Board met in the General Registrar's office, 2848 Riverside Drive, North Tazewell, Virginia on Monday, July 8, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Irma Mitchell at 1pm. Present for the meeting was Director of Elections, Brian Earls, Vice Chair, Richard Street and Secretary, Sherman Cain.

No members of the public were present to observe the meeting. An agenda of business items was presented to the board at the commencement of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes from prior board meetings was made and seconded. The motion unanimously carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

MUNDY TOWN PRECINCT: The Board discussed concerns over the future ownership of the building currently being used for voting. The building is for sale, unoccupied and regular maintenance is an issue. Moreover, the building is in the flood plain and has experienced one major flood since it was leased for precinct use.

The Board recently viewed a new larger available building nearby. The building located at 1727 Adria Road has ample parking, easy access, appears to comply with various occupancy codes and would alleviate the problems facing the current location.

Following discussions a motion was made to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the Mundy Town precinct be relocated to 1727 Adria Road. The motion unanimously carried.

RICHLANDS PRECINCT: The Board has been informed that officials with the Town of Richlands have expressed a number of reasons why they would rather not host the voting precinct or for that matter any public event, in their police department building.

The Board anticipating a near future lease cancellation discussed available suitable location options. At this time the only location apparent to this Board is the Gethsemane Baptist Church Fellowship Hall located nearby. Director Earls recently spoke to the pastor of the church about the possibility of using the fellowship hall for voting whereby he got a favorable response.

Following discussions a motion was made to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the Richlands precinct relocation to the Gethsemane Church Fellowship Hall. The motion unanimously carried.

AMONATE PRECINCT: The Board discussed several issues facing the building currently used as a voting precinct. This building also is unoccupied and closed up the rest of the time which results in dampness, mildew, odors and insects. There have been instances of vandalism to the outdoor lighting and the entrance ramp is frequently slick due to wetness.

The Board has been concerned with these issues for some time. Director Earls advised the citizens voting there could easily be assigned to other nearby locations, guided by where they live, such as Bishop, Bandy or Mundy Town precincts.

Following discussions a motion was made to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the Amonate precinct be closed. The motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

AGENDA MODIFICATION: A motion to approve the agenda be modified to proceed with other business items, ahead of the Annual Evaluation of the General Registrar was properly seconded and unanimously passed.

ELECTION OFFICIAL APPICATIONS: Several applications have recently been received. Following discussions and review of the applications a motion was made to approve the list. The motion unanimously carried. Approved were: Dana Moats, Audrey Asbury, Valerie Ritter, Cynthia LaForce, Mary Anderson, Sarah Turner, Allan Gorospe and Amberly Hampton.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Director Earls updated the Board on the VA Elections Workshop which he stated he would watch the video recordings rather than drive to Richmond.

The Board agreed to meet at the office on 9am Tuesday, July 30, to watch the Legislative Changes webinar.

Director Earls advised he and Alicia would attend the annual VRAV meeting in Roanoke August 5 through August 7.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No citizens appeared before the Board to speak.

EVALUATION OF GENERAL REGISTRAR:

The annual performance review of the General Registrar is due by August 1 each year. The Board Chair made the motion to go into executive session; the motion was seconded and unanimously carried. The purpose of the executive session was pursuant to and in compliance with §24.2-109.1 of the Code of Virginia which provides that the "electoral board shall conduct an annual performance review of the general registrar. Director Brian Earls then left the room while the Board discussed the review.

Upon conclusion of the business of the closed session Chair Irma Mitchell made the motion to reconvene to open session; the motion was seconded and unanimously. Director Earls returned to the meeting room. The Tazewell County Electoral Board whereby adopted the following resolution read by Chair Irma Mitchell

Certification of Executive/Closed Meeting:

WHEREAS, the Tazewell County Electoral Board has convened an executive/closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative vote and in accordance with The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and WHEREAS, 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Tazewell County Electoral Board that such executive/closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tazewell County Electoral Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive/closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Tazewell County Electoral Board. Ayes: All three (3) Chair Irma Mitchell, Vice-Chairman Richard Street, Secretary Cain; Nays: None (0) Absent: None (0).

Director Earls was summoned back to the room whereby the Board went over the unanimously agreed on performance evaluation. The review process concluded with Board members and the Director signing the review summary pages.

The Board again thanked Director Earls for his ongoing dedication, conscientiousness to detail and deadlines, always displaying an exemplary attitude, strong work ethic, professionalism, community involvement and dedication serving this Board and the citizens during the preceding year.

OTHER BUSINESS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: To be determined.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a motion to adjourn was seconded and unanimously carried. The meeting concluded at 2:20pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Secretary