

SUMMARY OF SUBJECTS ACTED ON AT THE JUNE 15, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Members present:

Phil Johnson
Kelly Robinson
Dustin Thompson

Members Absent:

Motion passed to approve the Minutes from the May 11, 2020 Regular Board meeting as written.

Motion passed to remove the challenged deceased voters from the electors list.

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION
DATE: JUNE 15, 2020

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Phil Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

Members present were Chairman Phil Johnson, Kelly Robinson, Dustin Thompson, and Angela Mantle, Director.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Guests in attendance were Billie Boyd-Cox, Representative Pam Dickerson, and other unidentified guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Robinson made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 11, 2020 Regular meeting as written. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the removal of the challenged deceased voters from the electors list. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chairman Johnson began discussing the election held on June 9, 2020 and stated that Newton County had over 28,000 ballots cast which was extraordinary number for a primary and the good thing was that all 22 precincts opened and stayed open until the voters in line at 7:00 p.m. had the opportunity to vote. Mr. Johnson realized that we had a few minor equipment issues that were address quickly and remedied and there was a supply issue. Mr. Johnson said that the real problem was with cancelling the absentee ballots that were mailed to voters and those voters appearing at the polling locations to vote. A total of over 840 ballots had to be cancelled Election Day by 5 staff members. Mr. Johnson pointed out another issue from that day was the duplicating of the absentee ballots that did not scan. He complimented the group that was assisting with tabulation. Mr. Johnson stated that the two biggest problems were that we need to rethink the assignments of poll managers and the support provided by Dominion.

Ms. Robinson stated that overall that staff did a good job especially the full-time election staff. She said that with the resources we had that the in-house staff was excellent. Ms. Robinson did say that more telephone lines were needed to handle the volume of calls on

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Election Day as well as more staff to answer those lines. Mr. Thompson agreed, but did say that we may not have as many absentee ballots to cancel in November now that voters know what to expect. Ms. Robinson suggested adding a “Frequently Asked Questions” section to our webpage. She also said that we need to rethink the poll manager’ qualifications by including technology literacy in order to be a poll manager. Ms. Robinson said that she asked some poll managers about My Voter Page and some did not know how to use the website or the application. Mr. Thompson agreed and also wanted to commend the staff and said that the staff met the challenge.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

The Board was provided with a copy of the monthly status report showing the number of Active and Inactive voters as of June 1, 2020: Active – 75,688 and Inactive – 4,170.

The Board was also provided with a copy of a monthly report showing the breakdown of 2,365 voter registration applications received for the month of May 2020. The office processed 225 transferred out-of-county voters and 76 cancellations.

The Board was provided with a copy of the monthly budget comparison statement as of June 8, 2020.

Ms. Mantle advised the Board that the runoff would be August 11, 2020 and would include Superior Court Judge, County Commission District 5, and Board of Education District 4.

Mr. Thompson inquired about the felon cancellations not appearing on the monthly report and stated that he was aware of a procedure change. Ms. Mantle stated that she would make sure those numbers are recorded from the state and would provide updates to the Board.

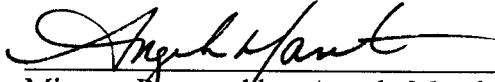
GUEST COMMENTS

Ms. Billie Boyd-Cox inquired about working as a poll worker. Ms. Mantle asked Ms. Boyd-Cox to contact her and she would provide the necessary application to work the polling locations.

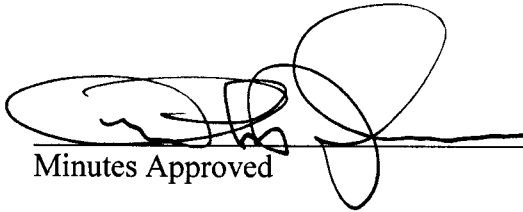
Representative Dickerson inquired about the open records requests that were sent. Ms. Mantle stated that she was aware of one of the requests, but would follow up with any additional requests. Ms. Dickerson also stated that a college student was denied his right to vote at the Town Precinct. Ms. Mantle advised that she was not aware of that situation and requested the voter’s information to follow up on the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Johnson asked if anyone had any other business to discuss before adjourning the meeting. The Board decided to meet on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. to certify the election results. Mr. Thompson made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.



Minutes Prepared by: Angela Mantle, Director



Minutes Approved

7-13-2020

Date