

Augusta County Electoral Board Meeting
Augusta County Government Center
Registrar's Office Board Room
October 18, 2016

The business meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. Present were Ruth Talmage, chair; Cliff Garstang, vice chair; Tom Long, secretary; Robin Moyer, chief assistant registrar; and Connie Messick, general registrar.

Ruth moved to approve the minutes of the October 3 meeting. Cliff seconded. Approved unanimously.

Connie made an appointment at 10:00 AM with IT to issues badges for Electoral Board members so we will have office access during building business hours. Tom will have a temporary badge for after-hours access after CAP training on November 2.

Connie and the board discussed training. We will utilize the ELECT online training modules. Cliff will lead discussion on Voter ID and EPB sections. Ruth will lead discussion on SOR section. Tom will lead prohibited area and who is allowed access sections. Officers will have access to the training modules at home via a simple log-in. Connie has submitted names to ELECT to facilitate that process.

The board discussed potential voter intimidation outside the 40 foot prohibited activities zone and security within the polling place. Concerns were expressed about people loitering in the polling place and/or intentionally delaying the process by blocking the voting machine access. These issues will be addressed in training with extra emphasis during the chiefs's training. The board will send a letter to local party chairs reminding them of the laws concerning party representatives inside the polling place, the prohibited activities zone, and encouraging them to communicate positively about the integrity of the electoral process.

The equipment open house will be informal and hands-on. Jerry Orlando will be present as will office staff if possible. Board members will attend portions of the equipment open houses.

Connie reported that VERIS has been very slow. There are over 480 voter registrations in the DMV hopper to process. The office has processed a number new registrations and checked registrations of a number of voters.

Connie has received two requests about observers in or outside polling places. Edison Research will have individuals conducting exit polls outside of Churchville Fire and Mount Solon. They be outside the 40 foot prohibited area. Judicial Watch has requested an observer. Ruth moved to deny the request and Cliff seconded. After discussion the motion and second were withdrawn.

At 10:00 AM the board briefly recessed to IT for the issuance of badges. The meeting resumed at 10:22 AM.

Ruth moved to allow one observer at a precinct to be determined from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The observer will have to agree to and sign the authorization and return it to the office by 5:00 PM on November 4. Tom seconded. After discussion, the motion was approved unanimously. Tom will contact the chiefs at Ridgeview and SDE and will update the authorization form for the observer. If other groups request to observe, those requests will be considered if received before our next meeting.

The board will meet October 27 at 4:30 PM prior to the officer training.

Connie present estimated wages for a Sheriff Deputy to be in the building near the Registrar's Office on the Saturdays the office is required to be open for in-person early voting. Cliff moved to approve the expenditure. Ruth seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tom moved to appoint officers on the list presented. Cliff seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

There have been no updates on the citizen complaint about county neutrality on the courthouse referendum. One group opposing the move has requested polling place locations indicating they may have campaigners present at some or all polling places.

By consensus confirming long standing policy that 40 foot prohibited zone is from building entrances at all polling places, the board agreed that courthouse information will not be permitted inside the Government Building. The 40 foot prohibited zone is from building entrances at all polling places. The board will invite Candy Hensley to our October 27 meeting to make this point clear and to discuss any last minute details about delivery of ramps and other equipment to polling places.

Connie raised a traffic safety concern during return of voting equipment the night of November 8. We will have a person with flashlight, cones, etc. directing traffic. Only one car will be in unloading area at a time. We will highlight the new flow pattern during chiefs's training.

Tom reminded the board that he will contact the seven student Election Night helpers from Riverheads HS about one week prior to the election. At the same time he will send ELECT's media guidelines to local news media.

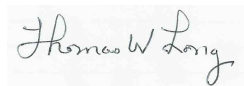
Cliff will submit the op-ed of "Advice to Voters" to the Staunton and Waynesboro papers.

Cliff discussed an article and a conference call about voting equipment and voter participation. The conference call suggested voting equipment with a paper trail and a voter "verified receipt" was the most secure. None of the current Virginia vendors have the "receipt" and the board briefly discussed its pros and cons. The conference call emphasized that DREs are "an accident waiting to happen." We will ask to be on the BOS agenda for the first meeting in December to request the purchase of new voting equipment.

Ruth will check on additional lighting for the Crimora/Dooms precinct directional sign.

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom Long, secretary