

Electoral Board Tuesday April 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Minutes Waynesboro Electoral Board

Tuesday, April 1, 2020

Meeting Called to order at 9:07AM.

In attendance Frank Lucente, Vice Chair, Robert Horowitz, Secretary, Lisa Jeffers, Director of Elections intermittently and on the phone Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton, Chair. Logan Bogert, a correspondent for the News Virginian Newspaper was a guest attendee.

Minutes from the March 3, 2020 Primary Meeting and the March 4, 2020 Canvass of the March 3rd Primary Meeting were approved.

Discussed VEBA Executive Committee proposals to Make the May 5, 2020 Local Election a Voting By Mail (VBM) only Absentee Ballot Election. Also discussed other options for the May Election including moving to a different date, getting the cooperation of the City Council to ask the Court to move the Election., etc.

Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton moved, and Frank Lucente seconded that due to the threat of the Covid-19m Virus to voters and election officials that may arise at an In-Polling Place Election, the WEB support a VBM only Absentee Ballot Election for the May 5, 2020 Local election. And if the Covid-19 threat has not abated to make the same recommendation for the June 9, 2020 Republican Senatorial Primary Election. The Democrats only had one declared candidate for the November Congressional Election and , therefore will not have a primary.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

It was then discussed that the City and Commonwealth should assist in promoting the VBM Absentee ballot election and process. They should use all official web sites, any social media, local news outlets and any other means to communicate this information, the step by step instructions and all other information pertinent to make this effort successful.

The Board discussed where Election may be held if Wards are unwilling to let us use their facilities due the virus. We will follow Virginia Election Laws, refer to the Emergency Plans the Board developed in the past. We may have to use Council Chambers at City hall if we cannot open some wards.

It was decided to have Mr. Horowitz, Secretary poll the Officers of election to find out who will or will not work the May 5th Election and what conditions they may request to do so.

The board discussed the need for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), especially if we can conduct In-polling Place elections. PPE must include M95 Masks, latex free rubber gloves, face shields, hand sanitizer bottles and sanitizing wipes. Even if we can run a VBM only election the Registrars, EB and those OE who volunteer to help will need PPE to move and open envelopes and cast the ballots.

The Board discussed the difficulty some senior, disabled those without access to or are unfamiliar with using computers or the internet and other registered voters may have with securing Absentee ballots and getting a witness to verify and sign that they voted. Several recommendations and suggestions were put forth. Mr. Lucente pointed out that we should and will follow the guidance in these matters provided by the SBE and ELECT. Inquiries will be made to ELECT for guidance in those matters that have as yet to be addressed.

The Board discussed and approved the locking of the Registrar's Door during this health crisis. A potential voter or any making an inquiry will have to knock and be subject to the same questions the City Guard at the entrance to the Gorsuch building makes before they can come in. If forms are requested. they will be passed under the door

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or the visitor will be asked to social distance and the materials will be placed outside the door. Entry to the Registrar's Office will be at the discretion of the registrar.

Ms. Jeffers had placed an ad in the news Virginian recommending voting Absentee via mail along with step by step directions on requesting an absentee ballot via the internet from the Virginia Department of Elections Web Site: Elections.virginia.gov, as well as providing phone numbers and addresses for those who wish to make those requests from the Registrar by phone and mail. Despite receiving a bill and several statements saying the Ad ran in the paper; it did not run on the schedule March 30th request nor any time thereafter. Ms. Jeffers let them know of the registrar's and the EB's disappointment and dissatisfaction.

Regardless of how the May and June elections are run, training of OE and especially OE Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs must proceed. If the virus is still threatening, we may proceed to have the training virtually using ZOOM or some other virtual meeting format.

Our next meeting will be held on the first Wednesday in May. How and where to be determined later.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57a

Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton, Chair _____ Date _____

Frank Lucente, Vice Chair _____ Date _____

Robert Horowitz, Secretary _____ Date _____