

**BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
2128 SOUTH STERLING STREET-SUITE 100
MORGANTON NC 28655
TUESDAY OCTOBER 08, 2024
REGULAR MEETING /1st ABSENTEE MEETING
10 AM**

Attending; LH Kirksey, Sandi Walker, Beverly Carlton, Linda Walker, and Anthony Iovino.

Staff; Kenny Rhyne, Dustin Wise, and Trent Price

Guests; Barbara Myers, Dot Williams, Diane Scott, and Ann Moncrief.

Chairman LH Kirksey called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM, led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Public comments: Barbara Myers said she was happy for the safety of the people in the hurricane. Anne Moncrief expressed support for the Board of elections.

LH Kirksey announced the River Village property will not allow any campaign signs on their property.

Linda Walker made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. All approved.

Linda Walker made a motion to amend the minutes to correct the speaker's name in the public comments from Diane to Dot, list the date of the Trusted Elections Tour of August 22, 2024, and approve the September 10, 2024 minutes as amended. All approved.

Director Rhyne gave the number of absentee ballot requests received by category.

1458 civilian, 33 military, and 33 overseas; total 1574.

A brief discussion followed on the handling of the first batch of ballots that were invalidated due to the removal of a presidential candidate at their request and subsequent removal. Our director had the foresight to not seal the envelopes till they were ready and approved for mailing. This saved the Burke County Board of Elections 3 to 4 thousand dollars. Because of this Linda Walker expressed appreciation to our Director, Kenny Rhyne for his decisive thinking and action. Kenny presented the board the list of Election Day workers for approval. He noted there were a few positions still open.

Linda Walker made a motion to approve the list as presented and give Kenny authority to complete the roster. All approved.

Training dates were discussed, Election Day Training,
October 07, 2024, Chief Judges 2:30PM, Judge/ Assistants 5:30PM

and today, 10-08-2024 Judge/assistant training 5:30PM.

Trent will be conducting training all day on Wednesday 10-09-2024 for laptop workers.

Training for Early voting workers will be Thursday 10-10-2024 at 5:30PM.

Kenny reported on the status of our polling places because of the storm.

Burke County was very fortunate in the sense that we only suffered damage at one polling location, the one at Smyrna Baptist Church (Upper Creek). Kenny had talked with Laura Dell and said we should follow her suggestion of trying to put up a temporary location instead of moving to another location in the precinct. Linda Walker made the motion to authorize Kenny to work with Emergency management, Mike Willis, to set up a temporary structure at Smyrna Baptist Church. All approved.

Chairman LH Kirksey expressed his appreciation for the County Manager completing the work at the Burke Senior Center in redoing the sidewalk to streamline the traffic flow for voters entering the Senior Center for Early Voting. Sandi Walker made a motion to send a letter to the Commissioners and the County Manager to express our appreciation for the construction of the sidewalk at the Senior Center. All approved. Note: Beverly Carlton will draft the letter for the board.

The board then processed the absentee ballots that had been returned.

39 civilian, 12 civilian with affidavit review, total civilian 51.

8 military and 19 overseas ballots to be replicated. Total in this category 27.

Total to be tabulated 78.

Kenny also noted 6 ballots were spoiled and reissued.

FYI note: 3-insufficient witness, 1-mismarked, 1-damaged (wet), 1-voter decided to vote in person.

Trent opened the DS 200 and verified the machine had a zero count. Board members verified this information and signed the tape on the machine.

Trent then fed the processed ballots into the machine and verified the public count as 78. The board members confirmed the number as well.

Linda Walker recognized the excellent job the staff did in conducting the L&A testing of all of our voting machines for the upcoming election. All the results for the tabulations balanced.

Beverly Carlton requested a schedule for the meetings scheduled for the board members. Secretary Walker said she would email her the information.

Anthony lovino made a motion to adjourn at 12:18 PM. All approved.

Submitted by Sandi Walker, secretary