

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
2128 SOUTH STERLING STREET-SUITE 100
MORGANTON NC 28655
TUESDAY JUNE 10, 2025
REGULAR MEETING

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

Anthony Iovino late arrival at 10:10AM

Staff; Kenny Rhyne, Dustin Wise, and Trent Price

Guests; Dot Williams, Stephanie Price, Tim Buff, Donna Wojcik, and Rhonda Dautrich.

Tracey Stamey late arrival

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

Public comments:

Tim Buff thanked Chairman LH Kirksey for his professional conduct as chairman of the Board of Elections and saluted him for his dedication to the elections process in Burke County.

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

Linda Walker made the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting for May 12, 2025, as presented.

All that had attended the May meeting approved. Beverly Carlton noted her abstention from voting due to her absence.

Business:

Updates from the Director:

Director Kenny Rhyne gave a report on the final budget, noting some cuts. He has been in touch with the county manager's office. After discussion with the county budget team, there will be several adjustments to make the necessary corrections.

FYI ONLY Director Rhyne gave the board members a proposal he had received from a company called "Text My Gov" an information system to help voters get information by text. This is a new technology that needs a lot more consideration.

The next item on the agenda was the decision on a permanent voting location for the Lovelady 4 precinct.

After receiving a call from the Valdese Town Clerk that the town hall would not be available for the November municipal election, the town hall is housing the Valdese Police department and is using the area the Board of Elections had used for the voting.

The Valdese Splash Pad at 408 Hill St. SE, was used as a temporary location for the 2024 election.

Sandi Walker has serious concerns for the practicality of making the Splash Pad location a permanent location due to the narrow street the building is located on. She also has a concern about the limited parking, the narrow parking lot at the east end of the building and the extra distance voters will have to walk to get into the building from the west parking lot on the site.

Mrs. Sandi Walker had suggested making the Valdese Recreation Center the permanent location. The Recreation Center was not a viable location for the relocation of the Lovelady 4 precinct as it was not ADA compliant. These changes are in the process of being made, but there is no guarantee that the changes would be completed by November 2025. Another concern that was expressed for the Recreation Center was the voters having to cross the street in front of the Recreation Center and for curbside voting. Sandi noted this was a city-controlled street that could easily be closed off. Mr. Herms Town Manager also stated that he believes the Splash Pad would be a better location for a permanent site as Lovelady 4 Precinct.

After discussion, Beverly Carlton made the motion to designate the Valdese Splash Pad at 408 Hill St SE Valdese as the permanent location for the Lovelady 4 polling location.

Yes, Beverly, Linda, Anthony, LH Kirksey No: Sandi

Director Rhyne then presented a sample letter from Linda Walker listing space needs for the Board of Elections

Linda suggested the board members make a list of space needs and recommendations and address them at the August meeting.

Director Rhyne told the board members the swearing-in meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2025, and informed the board members the July 08, 2025, meeting should be canceled.

Sandi Walker made the motion to cancel the regularly scheduled board meeting for July. All approved.

July 22, 2025, will be the next meeting. Swearing in will be at noon, followed by a board meeting to elect a secretary and conduct other business.

Finally, Director Kenny Rhyne presented the plan for inclement weather.

Beverly made the motion to adopt a plan for inclement weather for Early Voting as established by Burke County Government Inclement Weather Plan. All approved.

Note: the plan will be included in the minutes. The board and staff recognized Chairman LH Kirksey with a plaque of appreciation for his years of service with the Burke County Board of Elections.

With no further business, Anthony Iovino made a motion to adjourn at 11:17AM. All approved.

Submitted by Sandi Walker, Secretary