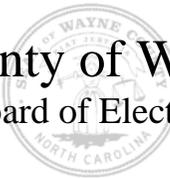


Bridgette C. Cowan
Chairman

Jimmy E. Hull
Member

Rick Moore
Secretary



County of Wayne Board of Elections

Eddie L. Edwards III
Member

M. Bryan King
Member

Anne C. Risku
Director

Wayne County Board of Elections Board Meeting February 9, 2021

PRESENT: Bridgette C. Cowan, Chairman
Jimmy E. Hull, Member
Rick Moore, Secretary
Anne C. Risku, Director

Eddie L. Edwards III, Member
M. Bryan King, Member
Andrew Neal, Staff Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Mr. Edwards.

I. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Mr. King made a motion to approve the November 12, 2020 meeting agenda. Mr. Moore seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

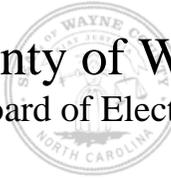
II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for 9/29/20, 10/6/20, 10/13/20, 10/20/20, 10/37/20, 11/2/20, 11/3/20, 11/12/20, and 11/13/20. Mr. King seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

III. Director's Report

- Process Updates:
 - List Maintenance: Ms. Risku updated the Board on list maintenance procedures. 3,373 inactive voters were removed in January per state statute. Staff began biennial list maintenance mailings in January as well and that process is ongoing. Staff will begin the biannual NCOA mailings March 1st.
 - Equipment: Printelect preformed the annual maintenance on the County's voting equipment last month.
 - COVID-19 hotline: Staff has been assisting the county's COVID-19 hotline daily.
 - Budget: Ms. Risku is currently working on the 21-22 budget and that it will be for two elections and a possible third.
 - Board Appointments: County Board Member appointments will be made in June 2021 for the 21-23 term.
- Redistricting
 - Andrew Neal presented an update on the Census and local redistricting procedures. He noted that the COVID pandemic has delayed the Census data and that County districts have to legally be redrawn by October. Given current projections there will be about an 8-10 week window to get them completed.
 - There is talk that the General Assembly might change the deadline and/or move the scheduled March 2022 primary to May.
 - The County is hoping to be able to redistrict County Commission and School Board districts in house or might hire a consultant as in past cycles.

County of Wayne
Board of Elections

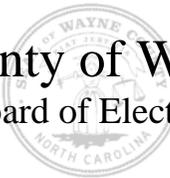


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- The Planning Department expects most population growth to be in the Mar-Mac and Seven Springs areas of the county with very little growth inside the Goldsboro city limits.
 - He also noted that municipalities are responsible for their own redistricting.
 - Election Calendar:
 - Ms. Risku reminded the Board that the Municipal and Sanitary elections will take place on November 2, 2021 for seats on the following Boards: Belfast-Patetown Sanitary District, Eastern Wayne Sanitary District, Southeastern Wayne Sanitary District, Southern Wayne Sanitary District, Fork Township Sanitary District, Town of Mt Olive, Town of Pikeville, Town of Seven Springs, and Village of Walnut Creek.
 - Filing will be July 2, 2021 – July 16, 2021 for every contest except those in the Town of Mt Olive. Filing for Mt Olive offices will be from July 26, 2021 – August 13, 2021. General Statutes require a separate filing period for municipalities elected by districts the year following the Census. Mt Olive is the only municipality with elections in 2021 that files by district.
 - HAVA Grant: Ms. Risku informed the Board that the office was recently awarded a HAVA grant of \$192,793 that must be spent by June 30, 2021.
 - Ms. Risku noted that she and staff discussed the various spending options but that the number one priority was to replace the Board's aging Election Day laptops which were at least 10 years old. She noted that this would set the Board up for at least the next decade technology-wise considering the recent purchase of a new voting system in 2019. She is working with IT to get quotes in addition to quotes already garnered by staff and will continue to work with IT as they will ultimately make the purchase for the office.
 - Mr. King asked how many laptops – Ms. Risku responded with 100. That is 3 for all 28 precincts plus backups.
 - Mr. Edwards asked if the Board was bound to a specific vendor by the County. Ms. Risku stated they were not just that the purchase just had to be made based on County purchasing rules.
 - Ms. Risku also presented the option to purchase new curb alert systems for curbside voting at the Polling Places. The current alerts were purchased over a decade ago and are in need of replacement.
 - Replacement alerts are \$250 and staff is looking to purchase approximately 40.
 - Mr. King noted that that is only around \$60,000 – what could the Board purchase with the other \$130,000. Ms. Risku mentioned the possibility of putting the remainder towards the County's debt service on the recently purchased voting equipment.
 - Ms. Risku recently upgraded the Board of Election's security system and will pay for that with HAVA funds.
 - Lastly Ms. Risku presented the idea of purchasing new ADA machines. The ExpressVote is Printelect's new ADA compliant machine that replaces the AutoMark currently in use. Printelect will continue to service them as long as we have them. The original quote for 37 ExpressVotes in 2019 was for \$120,000. Ms. Risku advised the Board, however, that there is currently pending litigation in regards to the ExpressVotes use of barcodes.

Bridgette C. Cowan
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Jimmy E. Hull
Member

Rick Moore
Secretary



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- Mr. King and Mr. Edwards expressed a desire to wait until the lawsuit was adjudicated prior to making the purchase. Mr. Moore concurred.
 - Mr. Edwards asked for a total amount of debt owed on the voting system. Mr. Neal said he would get that to the Board.
 - Mr. Hull expressed support for new Election Day laptops.
 - Mr. Moore noted that he supported paying down the County's debt service on the voting system.
 - Ms Cowan asked Ms. Risku for her opinion. Ms. Risku noted a hesitance to purchase ExpressVotes considering pending litigation but that new laptops and curb alerts were necessary. She also expressed support for using remaining funds to pay the debt incurred for the voting system.
 - Mr. King asked if staff had any other future large projects and Ms. Risku noted that these purchases along with recent ones would keep the Board in good shape for many years.
 - Mr. Moore asked if there were any needs in the office and Ms. Risku stated that the County had taken good care of the BOE and that the office was in good shape.
 - Ms. Cowan expressed support for what Ms. Risku felt was the best use of the grant funds.
 - Mr. Hull restated support for spending on the Board's needs and then turning the rest over to the County for debt service.
 - Ms. Risku noted she would have more specifics at the next meeting.

IV. Closed Session - Personnel

- Mr. Edwards made a motion to enter closed session to discuss personnel matters. Mr. King Seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- The Board entered closed session.
- The Board returned to open session.

V. Adjournment

With all business having been conducted, Mr. King made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Edwards seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Rick Moore - Secretary