

The Charlotte County Electoral Board Met Thursday April 15th, at 10 am, at the County Administration Building

>Meeting was called back to order by Chairman Clark

>present were: Lawrence Clark -Chairman, Warren Browning-Vice-Chairman, Glenwood Foster-Secretary, Rebecca Daly-Chairperson of the Charlotte County Democratic Party, Kay Pierantoni Supervisor Red Oak/Wylyesburg District, Kurtis Jones-Officer of Election.

>Chairman announced that if meeting was not finished by 11:30 it would have to be recessed again because L and A testing would be performed on voting machines that will be used in the June primary, and that board members needed to be there.

>Secretary read the minutes of the March 3rd Electoral board meeting.

-Corrections to minutes suggested by the board.

1)Prayer needs to be added.

2)Discussion about budget section under New Business. Interim Registrar Mr. Goode said he didn't say at March meeting that he had moved the two temporary assistants from a line item on his budget to purchased services on the Electoral Board budget. Secretary told Interim Registrar that what was recorded in the minutes could be Found at 1:07:00 in the audio recording of the March meeting. This had also come up at the March 6th budget meeting with the Board of Supervisors. Chairman told secretary to meet with Interim Registrar to determine what he meant to say. Secretary told Chairman that he records what is actually said in meetings not what is meant to be said, or what was intended to be said. Mr. Clark said if minutes are not correct they don't need to go into the book. Secretary said minutes accurately describe what is said and done at meetings and audio recordings verify accuracy.

3)Secretary asked what other changes needed to be made to the March minutes.

4) Chairman said we would not get those minutes done today. Secretary told Chairman that the rest of the board had not spoken. Secretary asked again what changes needed to be made to the March minutes.

5)Discussion of list Chairman had sent the Secretary of corrections he wanted made to the March minutes.

a) Chairman said minutes incorrectly stated that he said “people should be told when they are being recorded, not that you had to ask for approval”. Secretary responded that was one of the items on Mrs. Daly’s list which he had added into the minutes.

b) Discussion about adding approving a template for the agenda.

c) Budget-discussion about Chairman wanting added into the minutes that he had advised Secretary and Vice-Chairman to make an appointment with the Interim Registrar quote “to clear up anything that you don’t understand, and that was with the budget and you guys made that appointment and that was supposed to have been cleared up but apparently it wasn’t. Secretary quote “at what point do you want that added?” Chairman quote “it should be in there right before we approved the budget.”

> Secretary asked chairman why he didn’t want to be at the meeting. Chairman quote “because I had already looked over the budget. “Secretary asked “when was that. Chairman “when we went over the budget. “Secretary quote “did you and the Registrar work on the budget without other board members present?” Chairman “no I looked at the budget when it was presented to Eric and asked if I had any questions.” Secretary asked again “will you answer the question did you and the Registrar work on the budget without other board members present?” Chairman “no I did not and I told you that, and you put something about that in the minutes and it shouldn’t be in there.” Secretary “when was that?” Chairman “it was in the February minutes you were talking about we did something behind your back. Secretary “I gave an accurate account. If anyone wants to listen to it, I have two flash drives you are welcome to one of them. I just want to make sure what I put in the minutes is accurate and they run parallel and correspond with the audio recording.” Chairman “do you understand what Eric is saying?” {refer to number 2 above}

>Secretary asked for motion to approve minutes. Vice-Chair made motion to approve March 3rd minutes, Secretary seconded motion. Vote was 2 in favor 1 opposed. Motion passed.

>Registrar’s report-

1)Registrar presented the board a flyer with list of Democratic candidates competing for the Democratic nomination for offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General of Virginia. Flyer needs to be advertised in the local paper and county website. Board needed to approve it before it could be submitted. Secretary let Chairman of Democratic party review it for her approval. Vice-Chair made motion to approve the flyer, Chairman seconded motion. Vote was all in favor, flyer was approved.

2)CAP precinct will be open last two Saturdays before election.

3)Interim Registrar gave the board a calendar of deadlines for 2021 elections.

>Financial Report-no major expenditures

>Public Comment:

-Rebecca Daly/ Chairperson of Charlotte County Democratic party-questions about early voting on Saturdays

-Kurtis Jones-said he was disturbed that Chairman had suggested an Electoral Board member have a private meeting with the Registrar to correct the minutes. Chair-man responded "that wasn't my suggestion that was his {Registrars?} suggestion." Kurtis replied "well I have wrote down here that you suggested Secretary get with Eric. Mr. Jones also had questions about which days counted as the 45 days of early voting.

>Chairman asked that minutes of February meeting be addressed in closed session. Secretary protested going into closed session. Chairman again claimed the minutes of the February meeting were not accurate pertaining to the meeting with the County Administrator January 27th.

>Secretary asked for February 3rd minutes be approved .Vice-Chair asked Secretary if minutes "are as they are in the recording." Secretary answered "yes sir. Chairman argued about accuracy of February minutes again. Secretary gave Vice-Chair flash drive with audio recording of February minutes so he can check accuracy of written minutes. February minutes will be addressed again at next meeting.

>Budget Meeting Review- discussion about the meeting on February 25th that board attended when the County Administrator told the board that the budget needed to be reduced. When the Electoral Board met on Wednesday March 3rd the Interim Registrar gave the board the new budget he had already submitted to the County Administrator without Board approval. Secretary asked why new budget increased \$9,429.00 after we had been told to reduce it .Interim Registrar said the main reason for the increase was that minimum wage was increasing. The County Administrator had given the Electoral Board members a list of comparables of other counties cost of elections, which was done by the Financial Director of Charlotte County. Charlotte County costs per election were significantly higher than the other counties in the comparable. The Chair-man questioned the accuracy of the comparables also. Vice-Chair asked what options we have other than what the county says? Chairman replied "we have to go to ELECT and see what they are requiring us to do, and if they are requiring us to do something different from the county, then it's going to be a problem there. The county is going to have to you know see what ELECT is talking about and do that. I'm talking about the money we have for elections, and the people we have to have for elections. That has to be set and it's set by ELECT, that's the people in charge of elections. I've talked to Barbara Tabb (President of the Virginia Electoral Board Association)about This she's talking to state people and we may have to have a meeting."

>Discussion about failure to notify about meetings-Board needs to stop having meetings without proper notice being given.(FOIA requirement)

>Discussion about Saxe-Bacon polling place meeting-Board had decided to meet Friday March 19th at 12 noon to discuss and scout potential polling place for Saxe-Bacon

Precinct. Registrar sent an e-mail the day before that the board would be meeting with Mr.Arbogast who is with the school system at 10:00 am that morning instead . Once again a meeting for the board had been set up without proper notification or approval of the board. At that meeting Mr.Arbogast told the board that Bacon school would not be available as a polling place for 2021 elections. School system had decided against using school as a polling place previously before Shiloh church was used, because of safety concerns for the children. Secretary informed the board that he had inquired about Lebanon church, Southall church, Depot at Randolph, store building at Randolph, and Tuckers store in Saxe. Lebanon church and the Depot declined the offer, the others are potential at this point. Shiloh church graciously extended the use of their building for 2021 elections if necessary.

>Change in time and date of meetings-Change in time of meetings was discussed. Secretary made motion to change time and date of meetings to 1st Thursday of the month at 1:pm.Motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman and carried without dissenting vote.

>Mr. Clarks e-mail to the Secretary March 16th:

1)January 28th minutes ok

2)February 3rd minutes the first paragraph is incorrect and is your opinion and not what happened at the meeting. It should be deleted.\We discussed this earlier in the meeting. Vice-Chair is going to listen to audio recording to check for accuracy of February 3rd minutes.

3)Why were two ballots not cured?/need to determine why they were not cured and when they arrived at Registrars office.

4)The meeting (cure) was planned long time in advance. Why didn't you object to the process when it was planned. Don't act like you didn't know what was planned. Secretary said was told how the meeting would be conducted, he didn't recall being part of planning the meeting.

5)Secretary was Chairman and agreed to staffing when it was presented./It WAS decided Interim Registrar could hire up to 4 assistants.Registrar actually had 5 assistants and a consultant. FIVE ASSISSTANT AND CONSULTANT WERE NOT APPROVED BY THE BOARD.CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD DIDN'T KNOW CONSULTANT HAD BEEN HIRED UNTIL A WEEK

AFTER THE ELECTION WHEN HE WAS TOLD ABOUT A PERSON ENTERING SAXE-BACON POLLING PLACE AFTER DOORS HAD BEEN LOCKED AND WORKED ON THE VOTING MACHINE.INTERIM REGISTRAR

WAS QUOTED IN CHARLOTTE GAZETTE THAT CONSULTANT HAD BEEN HIRED OCTOBER 5TH.BUT CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT.HOW COULD THAT HAPPEN????

6)The board gave the Registrar permission for the amount of staffers. Now you are trying to act like you didn't know anything about it .That was explained at the meeting.

7)I didn't say statute over ruled code, that's your words./refer to 2:58:00 in recording of February meeting.

8)Feb 22 ok

9)Feb 25th budget meeting. Some of the increases were because of early voting and increase of minimum wage./that was put in minutes as explanation given as to why the budget increased so much from year before .

10)Feb 25 Risk Limiting Audit. Didn't come up./need to check why.

11)March 3rd meeting missing./minutes had not been completed

12)Requesting copy of audio for Jan 28th meeting./Secretary had recording on his phone. He said he would be happy to give his phone to anyone that could perform the task.

NEW BUSINESS:

>Drop boxes for early voting -no information at this time, guidance is coming from Department of Elections.

>Deadlines for June and November Elections – all are on calendar Interim Registrar gave board during registrars report.

>Officers of Election assignments for June primary -Chairman told Secretary that was something he (Secretary) wanted to be involved in and that was one of the Secretary's pet peeves. Secretary reminded Chairman that assigning officers of election was one of the duties and responsibilities of the Electoral Board that couldn't be delegated to the Registrar.

>Chairman suggested that we meet again on Thursday May 22, at 1:00 pm.

>Mrs. Peritoni asked Chairman if he would like her to ask Jenny if the room is available for that day.

-Chairman said that we do not need the room to go over names of officers of election and the other stuff to discuss, so the meeting could be held at the registrars office if the room was not available.

-Mrs. Peritoni asked if we were able to record the meeting there.->Chairman replied yes

-Secretary said , no we needed to do everything here that we can.

>Rebecca said we had to finish the meeting because her comments are going to take a bit of time.

>Secretary announced that the only thing that we have left to discuss is the training schedule for the officers of election, but the registrar is not present for that. And we have the registrars position, and the process of advertising and interviewing for the registrars position.

>. Daly said to add her onto our next meeting under 'public comment' because we were already running late, and she has a lot of comments to cover. She also said

That Kurtis had some comments to make as well.

>Vice-Chair said that he had a question about the registrars position and advertising for it. At what point do we have to have advertisements up notifying people that they can apply?

-Chairman said that it has to be a whole process, and there are certain things that we have to go over first that we have not covered yet, and we should go over first.

-Vice Chairman then said that he does not want us to keep going as usual until it is too late to advertise and interview for the position, and wanted to know what date did

We have to have it done by.

- Mrs. Daly then said we needed to set a deadline for advertising for the position publicly if we choose to advertise for the position.

-Chairman added that first of all it is some things that we have to go over regarding the registrars position. He then read that it states that when you put a person

In as a temporary registrar you then put them on for the unused time of the registrar.

-Secretary said to Chairman that we as a board agreed that this position would be advertised and we would be doing interviews for the position, and is in the minutes

From that meeting.

-Chairman argued that he did not agree to that.

-Mrs. Daly tells him that it is in the minutes and it was voted on.

-Vice Chair read the minutes of the August 13th meeting regarding the registrars position. "Mr. Bradner made a motion that Mr. Eric Goode, assistant registrar serve as interim registrar for Charlotte County until July 1, 2021. During May of 2021 Mr. Goods will be evaluated by the board on goals established by the board during September of 2020 meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Clark and passed without descending vote.

-Secretary asked Vice Chair to continue reading the second page.

-Vice Chairman continued, "Mr. Bradner made a motion that on June 1, 2021 the board will start advertising for a permanent registrar whose term will begin on July 1,

2021. Prior to July 1, 2021 the board will make a decision on who will be appointed to a 4 year term to serve as registrar for Charlotte County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark and passed unanimously.

-Chairman (Mr. Clark) asked to read what code 24.2-110 says. Electoral board should fill any vacancy in the office of the general registrar for the expiring term. And he said that it states that the board is supposed to fill the unfilled term of the registrar. The current registrar started in 2019 so that means that we Filled that position until 2023.

-Secretary pointed out that the electoral board already made two motions and voted on them regarding this subject.

-Mrs. Daly agreed, and said that we voted on the registrars position in August, and if Mr. Clark felt that way then the vote should have never been taken.

-Mrs. Peritoni wanted to clarify, that whatever determination the board made regarding the registrars position seems to her that the board already made a decision and once you appoint someone that person would serve or fulfill out the term for Mrs. Lambert, but we as a board know that we can not go back and change a motion and vote that was already made.

-Chairman said that he understood, but we are going to need to check into this and make sure that we are doing it the proper way.

>Mrs. Daly said that we are allowed to put the current interim registrar out of office at any time if they are not fulfilling their duties. She also asked Chairman to check the minutes and recordings of the past for accuracy if he wished, but she would like to stop wasting time at every meeting going over and hashing out the same things.

>Vice Chairman asked Mr. Jones if he still wanted to comment as we were approaching the end of the meeting.

>Mr. Jones said that he wanted to wait and save most of his comments until the next meeting, but he said that he think that this is not the way that business should Be conducted and that we know that the board has a certain job to perform, and has a responsibility to hire a qualified and competent registrar to fill this job, And Mr. Clark, the board, and the registrar need to work together to accomplish fair, open, and legal elections. And that he thinks it is important that there be a true evaluation done of the performance of the current registrar.

>Chairman made a motion to recess the meeting.

>Secretary seconded the motion.

>Meeting recessed.