

BOTETOURT COUNTY ELECTORAL BOARD

June 24, 2020

On June 24, 2020 a post-election meeting of the Botetourt County Electoral Board was held in the second floor conference room of the Botetourt County Courthouse. All members were present, as was the GR/DOE, Traci Clark. Chairman John Rader called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Upon a motion by Vice Chairman Steve Vaughn, the minutes from the June 8, 2020 meeting were approved as presented.

Secretary Buck Heartwell gave a brief report on the Republican primary election to choose a U.S. Senatorial candidate, which was held on the preceding day, June 23, 2020. He stated that the Board visited each precinct and observed no problems. Several of the precinct chiefs mentioned that the electronic poll books (EPBs) would not open initially, but that this was quickly resolved.

Traci also gave a brief report. She stated that the EPB glitch was reported to her shortly before the opening of the polls. The EPBs were not downloading properly. As she and staff were not able to resolve this problem, Traci called the manufacturer/vendor, Knowink. A conference call to all of the EPB operators was quickly initiated, and with the guidance of Knowink personnel, the EPBs were soon operating properly. Voting was delayed by no more than 30 minutes.

A discussion ensued about how the pre-testing of the EPBs could be improved. The Board complimented Traci on her quick and decisive handling of the EPB software glitch.

The Board then proceeded to reconcile the digital readouts from the scanners with the Statement of Results (SORs) which had been submitted by the precinct chiefs. No significant problems were found.

Fourteen provisional ballots were cast in the election. In the Mill Creek precinct Duane R. Newcomb and Barbara J. Spragg arrived to vote when the polling place opened, but could not vote because of the EPB problem. They chose to go ahead and vote provisionally. Subsequently, staff confirmed that both voters were properly registered and entitled to vote. Buck moved that their votes be counted, and the motion passed unanimously.

In the Daleville precinct, Katherine Kemp Benefield was not allowed to vote because she had previously been issued an absentee ballot which she did not bring with her to the polling place. Later staff was able to confirm that the absentee ballot had not been voted, and on Buck's motion, her provisional ballot was counted.

In the Blue Ridge Precinct, Shalene Divers, Shawn Callahan, Mark Colleluori and Barbara Colleluori elected to vote provisionally when the poll first opened and the EPBs were down. These voters were found to be properly registered and entitled to vote. Buck's motion that their votes be counted passed unanimously. Randal Landes, Kimberly Landes and Rachael E. Craighead had been previously issued absentee ballots which they did not mail in or bring with them to the polls. Upon confirmation by staff that their absentee ballots had not been voted, Buck's motion that their provisional votes be counted passed.

In the Cloverdale precinct James A. Belinfonte, Jr. and Linda K Harris did not bring their previously issued absentee ballots to the poll, and they were required to cast provisional ballots. Later it was determined that their absentee ballots had not been voted. Accordingly, Buck moved that their provisional votes be counted, and the motion passed. And in the Troutville precinct, Brenda Akers Cooper was allowed to vote provisionally so staff could confirm that her absentee ballot had not been voted. It had not, and the Board passed Buck's motion to count her vote.

With the Board's approval, Traci amended the relevant SORs, adding the approved provisional votes to the totals for the appropriate candidate.

Traci then asked the Board Members their opinion of the screens and partitions used on a trial basis in the Cloverdale precinct. All Board members felt that they did not increase voter security enough to justify their price. Moreover there was no space adequate for their storage if they were to be used in all precincts.

Traci then reminded the Board that EB training would be conducted in the second floor conference room on July 20th and 21st. The next Board meeting was scheduled for July 13th at 2:00 pm. There being no further business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned.