

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ELECTORAL BOARD

Minutes

December 3, 2019

The meeting was held at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street in Christiansburg, and was called to order at 10:00 am. All Board members were present. Registrar Viar was in attendance.

The minutes from the November 6, 7, and 8, 2019 meeting were approved.

Ms. Viar reported she is waiting on approval of carryover funds to purchase thirty-six laptops to replace the county's oldest pollbooks. She has also requested carryover funds for the purchase of laptops, a Verizon hotspot device, and printers in order to equip a satellite absentee voting location when no-excuse absentee voting is implemented for the November 2020 election. Secretary Williams provided an estimate of the number of Officers to be assigned for the March 2020 election to Ms. Viar for budget purposes.

Vice-Chairman Sills provided copies of the Record Retention Guidelines from the Library of Virginia. He noted that some records in the Board's office files exceed the retention date. Mr. Sills and Chairman Dowdy volunteered to go through the files and dispose of older material in order to conform with guidelines.

The Board discussed dates for Officer training in preparation for the upcoming Presidential Primary. The Board chose to continue training the Chief and Assistant Chief Officers in two different groups in order to provide more individual attention.

The Board and Registrar discussed the conduct of the November 5, 2019 General Elections. It was noted the pollbook laptops did not sync at all polling places. Registrar Viar has sent a sample of each type of laptop in the election to pollbook vendor, Robis Elections, Inc., to determine the cause.

Registrar Viar reported that the office received complaints on Election Day regarding campaigners who followed voters into the 40-foot campaign free zone. She has purchased signs and other tools to physically define the campaign-free zone boundary. Chief Officers reported concerns about the use of cell phones in the polling place and the presence of companion animals. The Board will address concerns at training for the next election.

Officer performance during the November 5th election met expectations, so the Board did not enter a closed session to discuss performance of individual Officers.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Marshall D. Dowdy
Chairman

John A. Sills
Vice-Chairman

Carroll D. Williams
Secretary