

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ELECTORAL BOARD

Minutes
July 28, 2020

The meeting was held at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street in Christiansburg, and was called to order at 1:00 pm. All Board members were present.

Secretary Williams moved to approve the minutes from the June 24, 25, and 26, 2020 meeting. Chairman Dowdy seconded the motion. The motion passed with Vice-Chairman Sills abstaining as he was absent from the June meeting.

At 1:15 pm, Chairman Dowdy moved that the Board enter a closed session in accordance with the Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of preparing the annual review of the General Registrar. Secretary Williams seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Registrar Connie Viar joined the closed session at 1:45 pm.

The Board exited the closed meeting at 1:55 pm and returned to open session. Secretary Williams moved to certify the meeting in accordance with Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia and that only such matters as were identified in the motion to convey the meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Board. Chairman Dowdy seconded the motion, and it carried as follows: Chairman Dowdy, aye; Vice-Chairman Sills, aye; Secretary Williams, aye.

The Board approved the Registrar's annual review prepared by Vice-Chairman Sills.

Registrar Viar provided an update on supplies ordered for absentee and Election Day voting. Ms. Viar noted that she will be meeting with the League of Women Voters, the NAACP, and other groups to discuss voter registration drives, absentee voting, and changes in election law. In September, she will record a podcast with the county Public Information Department regarding no-excuse absentee voting and satellite voting locations. She continues to work with Virginia Tech to inform students about their registration and voting options.

Registrar Viar selected the Wonder Universe: A Children's Museum at Uptown Christiansburg, formerly the New River Valley Mall, as a satellite location for in-person absentee voting for the November 3, 2020 election. The facility is located in the center of the county, accessible by car and bus, conforms with ADA requirements, and has a low rental cost. Information regarding the establishment of this off-site satellite voting location as well as the establishment of an on-site satellite location in Multipurpose Room 1 at the Government Center has been provided to County Attorney Marty McMahon for presentation to the Board of Supervisors for public comment and approval of an ordinance.

The Board discussed plans for training of Officers of Election for the November 3rd Presidential Election and chose training session dates. Officers will be divided into smaller groups and trained in separate rooms in order to accommodate social distancing requirements. Small-group training sessions for new Officers of Election will be offered regularly starting in September.

The Board discussed the adoption of a policy for member attendance using electronic means. Secretary Williams will write a draft policy for consideration at the next Board meeting. The Board briefly discussed the conduct of the June 23, 2020 Republican Primary, noting that the election went smoothly.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Marshall D. Dowdy
Chairman

John A. Sills
Vice-Chairman

Carroll D. Williams
Secretary