

## **Surry County Electoral Board Meeting Minutes July 23, 2020**

Meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. by Howell Godfrey. Lynita Mason, Judith Giorgio, Sharna White, and Claire Steen were also present. There was discussion regarding merging Walls Bridge back with Dendron as well as merging Spring Grove back with Claremont. The electoral board went over the registration and voter numbers for each precinct in 2012 and 2016 Presidential election. The highest number of registered voters was approximately 5500. A motion was made to merge Walls Bridge back into Dendron and all present were in agreement. A motion was made to merge Spring Grove back into Claremont and it was unanimously passed. It was decided to contact the Board of Supervisors and ask them to merge the above precincts. Judith Giorgio will draft a letter to the Board to request the change. Any changes have to be made prior to September in order to be in effect for the November election.

Training for the OOE was then discussed. The envelopes are marked with outdated information that does not match what actually is placed in the envelopes. The electoral board decided to come in one day in August and update all the envelopes and information in the packets.

There was discussion regarding parking at Claremont. Judith Giorgio will draft a letter to Mayor George Edwards asking if the parking lot across from Claremont (the old firehouse) may be used for overflow parking. If he is in agreement, we can put a voter parking sign at the road.

Parking for Dendron is also tight. It was suggested to have the poll workers park in the museum or municipal building parking lots. A letter will be drafted to the municipal building and museum to ask if this would be possible. (Addendum: An email was received from Wallace Faison stating we may use the parking lot.)

It was suggested to purchase plastic sandwich boards for each precinct to put the posters in to keep them neat and protected. A motion was made to make these purchases and all were in agreement. It was decided Ms. White will purchase seven sandwich boards.

Discussion regarding early voting starting this November election occurred. Registered voters will be able to vote 45 days prior to election day by absentee ballot. Voters can request an application by mail or appear in person at the General Registrar's office and fill one out (no application is required if done in person). Also there was discussion regarding how the new voter ID laws would be handled. No photo ID is required anymore.

There was discussion regarding online training for the electoral board members which the GR stated happened on Tuesday, July 21, 2020. None of the electoral board were aware of the meeting. Judith Giorgio will reach out to Barbara Tabb to see if it was recorded so we can see the new information.

Inactive voters were discussed. Registered voters who have become inactive have a question mark placed next to their name. If a person comes in to vote and there is a question mark next to their name, the voter is required to fill out an Affidavit before they can vote. (Addendum: Ms. White researched inactive voters and found the following: Voters who fail to respond to an address confirmation request and fail to take any voter-initiated action for two federal elections will have their voter registration

cancelled in the NVRA cancellation program. This cancellation function is automated in VERIS and occurs after each November federal election.)

The electoral board then made a motion to go into closed meeting to perform the annual security plan review and the General Registrar's annual review for the period between July 2019 to June 2020.

The meeting reconvened at 12:45 p.m. Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

### **Certification of Closed Meeting**

WHEREAS, the Surry County Electoral Board has convened a closed meeting on July 23, 2020, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Freedom of Information Act; and WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Electoral Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Surry County Electoral Board hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification applies, and (ii) only such public matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting; were heard, discussed or considered.

PRESENT:       Howell Godfrey, Lynita Mason, Judith Giorgio