

Augusta County Electoral Board Meeting
Augusta County Government Center
Registrar's Office Board Room
July 26, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. Present were Ruth Talmage, chair; Cliff Garstang, vice chair; Tom Long, secretary; Connie Messick, general registrar; and Robin Moyer, chief assistant registrar.

Ruth moved to approve the minutes of the July 5 meeting. Cliff seconded. Approved unanimously.

The board had a brief discussion about posting of minutes. Connie will post draft minutes as directed by a recent ELECT memorandum. Tom will circulate minutes within 24-48 hours of our meeting. Other board members and the general registrar can respond with corrections. At this point Connie will post the draft minutes online with a note that the minutes are not official until formally approved at the next meeting.

The board briefly discussed our email communications. The board will continue communicating by email and exchanging information between meetings, always copying the general registrar for archival purposes. The board will never conduct business except in a called meeting.

Registrar's Report

Connie has determined it is possible to create a Facebook page for the Registrar's Office. Tom moved to direct Connie to create a Facebook page for the office, containing information and links to ELECT and the Augusta County website to better inform voters about registration, deadlines, sample ballots, and other relevant information. The Facebook page will remain private until approved by the board. Cliff seconded. After discussion of relevant information to post, the board approved the motion unanimously.

Connie informed the board about DMV voter registration. The process has been streamlined, is real time, and the information is provided to the Registrar's Office immediately. Connie will inquire further with DMV and how the process works so her office will be better able to respond to voter and DMV inquiries.

Libby Beyeler has the old mechanical AVM machine that was sold to Dave Beyeler and was to be part of an Augusta County Historical Society exhibit. Nancy Sorrells reports that the keys do not work. The county also has an AVM machine and those keys do fit that machine. Cliff moved to allow the Augusta County Historical Society to use the machine in the county's possession. Ruth seconded. The board unanimously agreed.

Connie presented a modified Provisional Ballot Log Form that clearly designates the portion to be completed by the Officers of Election and the portion to be completed by the Electoral Board. The board agreed that these modifications will make use of the form clearer and easier for officers.

Connie informed us that office has received inquiries about partisan campaign signs. After discussion the board and general registrar agreed to continue directing such inquiries to the local party committee chairs.

Connie presented a list of dates for deadlines, training, L&A testing, etc. through November 8.

Connie presented a list of 17 new officers who have returned the the oath and response. Tom moved to approve the July 26, 2016 list of officers to serve a term to run until February 28, 2017. Ruth seconded. Approved unanimously.

Connie reported that School Board member Jeremy Shifflett turned in his campaign finance report two days late. He thought it had been completed online by the deadline and came to the office to check its status. Apparently there was some confusion in transitioning from paper filing to online filing. He will need to file a new Statement of Organization if he goes online. Ruth moved to set the civil penalty at \$10.00. Cliff seconded. In our discussion the board expressed the view that Mr. Shifflett was acting in good faith, but the Code of Virginia requires compliance otherwise there is a civil penalty. The motion passed unanimously.

Connie presented the Training Certification for Officers of Election and the Voting Equipment Security Plan for signatures and to be submitted to ELECT.

Tom inquired and Connie reported on handicapped signs left at polling places. There is apparent confusion between county maintenance staff and Electoral Board staff over who was to retrieve the signs and other equipment. SDE, New Hope, and Buffalo Gap (perhaps others) still have equipment/signs. The board agreed that whoever delivers signs and other equipment should be responsible for picking it up after the election. Tom volunteered to talk with Candy Hensley to clarify this matter before the November election.

Continuing Business

Churchville Fire - John Street, the chief at Churchville Firehouse, feels moving in this election year is not desirable due to confusion, the close proximity to Churchville Elementary polling place, and unknown setup issues. After discussion, the board decided to not make any changes for this November. Cliff will inquire about planned construction and renovations at the firehouse to assure that it will not conflict with the election.

Cedar Green will not relocate before the 2016 election. Eric Bond, the superintendent of schools, has stated that we can continue using the building for voting in 2017. We need to confirm that restrooms and heat will be available.

The board discussed the number of officers at each precinct. In this regard, we discussed the sample ballots, the number of greeters, floaters, etc. We discussed opportunities for state and local employees to work as officers of election. The board did not set specific numbers at each precinct but individual board members will work with chiefs to set an optimal number based on the number of voters and the facility size.

The board also briefly discussed the impact of the local referendum and how it might impact the flow of voters. Any groups advocating for or against the referendum will have to file a Statement of Organization and finance forms.

Ruth reported on Crimora and New Hope precincts. Ruth and Connie met with Frank Nolen, who suggested relocating both polling places – the Crimora polling place from Cassell Elementary to the proposed Crimora Community Center being built by Mr. Scrogam and the New Hope polling place from the New Hope Church to the New Hope Community Center. Ruth and Connie toured both locations with Mr. Nolen. The proposed Crimora Community Center is under construction and is not available for the foreseeable future. The New Hope Community Center has a large room and a kitchen. However, it has potential ADA issues including parking/sidewalk slope, sidewalk cracks, threshold, and entrance hallway that need to be resolved prior to making a decision about a move. The board took no action.

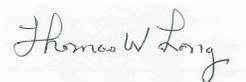
Restoration of Voting Rights - more guidance from ELECT will be forthcoming.

Friday, November 11 is Veterans Day and a federal holiday. The Augusta County Government Center will be open, however, the Augusta County Circuit Court will be closed. Guidance will be coming from ELECT on finalizing the canvass which will possibly be moved to Monday, November 14.

The next meeting of the Electoral Board will be August 16, 2016 at 9:00 AM in the Registrar's Office.

Adjourned at 11:10 AM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas W Long". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Tom Long, secretary