

Minutes of Madison County Electoral Board Meeting

January 12, 2023 1:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Leri Thomas, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Attendees: Leri Thomas; Jim Smith; and Larry E. Christensen all three qualified to take offices on the Electoral Board of Madison County; Madison County Registrar, Lauren Eanes; Annette Hyde Observer from the Madison County Democrat Committee.

Election of EB Officers: Ms. Thomas asked for the election of officers. The following were nominated and elected unanimously:

Ms. Thomas as Chair (Republican), Mr. Smith as Vice Chair (Republican), and Mr. Christensen as Secretary (Democrat).

Each Board member took the oath of office.

Chair Thomas welcomed Mr. Christensen to the board as a new member.

Training in Roanoke

The first order of business was a discussion of Electoral Board “Boot Camp” training (provided by the Virginia Electoral Board Association (“VEBA”) in Roanoke and Caroline County. The Boot Camp is required for both Mr. Smith and Mr. Christensen. Mr. Christensen will attend the session in Roanoke and remain for the balance of the VEBA annual meeting. Mr. Smith will attend the training in Caroline and forgo the sessions in Roanoke. Ms. Eanes discussed the budget for the training. There is no charge for the required Boot Camp and travel is reimbursed.

Date of Monthly Meeting

The next discussion addressed the date of monthly meetings. The monthly meeting will be on the first Wednesday of the month unless it is a holiday. The EB will attempt to respond to members’ need to be unavailable for an EB meeting due to medical treatment. EB meetings were scheduled on February 1 and March 1, 2023. The Board also discussed the calendar in general for the rest of the year with some reference to 2024.

Legislative Activity in Richmond

There was a short Discussion of the State Senate and State House legislative actions relating to matters that would directly affect the electoral process. Mr.

Smith conveyed that he was on the VEBA legislative committee and the committee is following all legislation that would have an effect on the Electoral Boards and General Registrars. Of the numerous bills presented to restore voter ID, none are likely to pass given the balance of the two Houses.

Excel Training

Ms. Eanes said she is confident in her capability to use spreadsheets. She will look for online training at no charge or minimum fees.

Budget Discussion and Drafting

The many issues that followed were budget matters. Jim Smith led the discussion and drafted elements of the budget during the meeting. The overall approach was to present a “zero-based budget.” As the natural inclination is to compare from year to year, changes from prior years will be explained with known and measurable changes.

Ms. Thomas offered many observations. Ms. Eanes shared information concerning expenditures in 2022 for comparable tasks. All agreed the calendar for planning includes more elections and possibly more expectations of the Board in the event of a special election or recount.

The health insurance for county officials and the impact of the Registrar’s budget and the EB budget were discussed.

The data processing budgets for both the Registrar’s Office and the EB were discussed at length. The Board members and Ms. Eanes expressed some concern with a decision of another part of the County Government to cancel a warranty agreement on the inventory of scanners equipment.

Postage rates are going up and this is a cost for the EB in conducting various type of voting programs.

The EB discussed whether publication by a newspaper might be replaced by posting in various County offices. At this stage that does not appear to be an alternative means of advertising for the elections.

Jim Smith will review in greater detail the data processing agreements and the value to the Board, the Registrar and the voting public.

Leri Thomas made a motion to convene in closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections:

- 2.2-3711(A)(1) Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion,

performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body and

- 2.2-3711(A)(34) Discussion or consideration by the State Board of Elections or local electoral boards of voting security matters made confidential pursuant to § [24.2-410.2](#) or [24.2-625.1](#).

Seconded by Jim Smith. Passed unanimously.

Closed Meeting Concluded

Leri Thomas made a motion to re-convene in open session pursuant to Code of Virginia 2.2 - 3712, Subsection D,
Seconded by Jim Smith. Passed unanimously.

Leri Thomas made a motion to certify by roll-call vote that only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711(A)(1) and (34) and that were identified in the motion to convene in closed session were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting.
Seconded by Jim Smith. Passed unanimously.

- Ms. Thomas certified.
- Mr. Smith certified.
- Mr. Christensen certified.

The Board took no action as a result of deliberations in the Closed Session.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Thomas. The motion was unanimously passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.