

Cherokee County Voter Registration & Elections Canvass Meeting & Board Meeting

Minutes for meeting held March 10, 2022

The following board members were present: James "Ed" Elliott, Richard Baines, Lamar Batchelor, Jimmy Cash, Carlton Bridges

**board members absent: Jason Blanton, Jerry Bridges, and 2 vacancies

**also in attendance: Amanda Walker (director) & Cassidy Nichols (deputy)

Agenda was posted in accordance with SCFOIA

Call to order: Ed Elliott @ 9am; Richard opened in prayer.

Minutes:

Ed administered the oath to all board members present; Lamar administered oath to Ed.

There were no provisional ballots cast in the City of Chesnee Special Election on 3.8.2022.

Richard, Ed, and Amanda conducted a hand-count audit for Morgans precinct and absentee by mail; hand-count audit matched election night results.

Richard made a motion to certify the City of Chesnee Special Election; Jimmy seconded; all approved; all signed off.

There was an issue of a breaker tripping at the Morgans precinct on election day, but it did not interfere with the voting process and/or use of equipment.

Jimmy made a motion to adjourn canvass meeting; Lamar seconded; all approved.

Richard made everyone aware that there was a grammatical error made in the minutes from 2.7.2022; 3rd paragraph, pg. 2 read "... ensured board members that is...." and should've read "...ensured board members that if....". Richard made a motion to amend the minutes; Jimmy seconded; all approved.

Amanda reminded the board, once again, that continuing education classes needed to be completed by Dec. 31, 2022. She would need to know ASAP if anyone is interested in in-person classes, as they fill up very quickly for the year.

Amanda also reminded them that their Ethics reports are due by March 30, 2022.

Amanda updated them on several changes to our precinct locations which will take affect starting with the June 2022 elections:

- * Morgans precinct will move to State Line Baptist Church
- * GW1 precinct will move to the County Administration Building
- * Alma is now staying at Alma Elementary
- * Goucher/Thicketty precinct will move to Goucher Baptist Church

All precinct changes have been updated on websites and new voter registration cards will be mailed out to voters affected.

Amanda informed the board that redistricting is being worked on. The House district lines and county lines are our focus at this moment being that filing opens March 16. We are still waiting on school board, City of Gaffney, and Board of Public Works. Town of Blacksburg will not need to be redistricted this time; not enough deviation. New voter registrations cards do not have to be mailed if the voter is only changing district lines. We are only required to send out voter registration cards if voter changes precincts or polling locations.

Amanda notified the board of the H.4919 bill that is being discussed in the state legislature. The bill, if passed, will do away with 30 day in-person absentee voting. We would still have 30 days absentee-by mail. Early voting would be implemented, which would be open to all voters, no excuse needed. Cherokee County would be required to open two early voting centers, which would require additional staff for those two weeks and additional funding. The second satellite office is only required for general elections, although the county could choose to use it for other elections, if needed. The bill would also change requirements for absentee-by mail; the voter would now have to put their drivers license number

and last four of social security number on return envelope. We would also be allowed to start opening absentee-by mail envelopes at 7am the day before election, instead of 9am election day. The bill also states that State Election Commission would solely be in charge of resourcing our ballot cards. There would also be a fine for anyone who releases results before 7pm election day and it would be considered a felony.

The next scheduled board meeting is Monday, April 4, 2022 @ 9am.

Next election is June 14, 2022. Candidate filing opens March 16, 2022 @ noon and closes March 30, 2022 @ noon. Probable new board members, Mike Watson and Ben Taylor, are only waiting on Governor's signature.

Richard made a motion to adjourn @ 9:48am; Lamar seconded; all approved.

Carlton Bridges Sr.
Carlton Bridges, Secretary

May 2nd, 2022
Date

**minutes recorded by Cassidy Nichols