

The County of New Kent Electoral Board met on Thursday, September 30, 2021, via Conference Call .com at 6:30 p.m. This was called an Emergency meeting - Definition of emergency, §2.2-3701: "Emergency" means an unforeseen circumstance rendering the notice required by this chapter impossible or impracticable and which circumstance requires immediate action. ~

All members present also this meeting was posted with the WebEx dial in number for anyone wishing to dial in. The Registrar and Chief Assistant were asked to attend as well. Minutes from the July, 20, 2021 web ex meeting having been sent to the member, have been read and approved.

CONCERNS FROM THE REGISTRAR AND STAFF: one main concern was trying to make sure everything is in place and that the Officers of Elections are safe to work this election with enough protection and enough workers to work in November Election with the Delta virus and Covid virus rising in numbers around the County as well as the state. Another concern was with members of the Republican party that have already cast their votes in the early vote precinct, which opened on Friday September 17, 2021. Some members dropping by the office unannounced to ask questions about the Early Vote Count and mail ballots that were sent and returned. At the very beginning of Early Voting, the Chairman of the party Republican gave a hand written letter for the appointed observer to be an observer for the 45-day period in the Registrar's office/ Early vote precinct. This entitles him to observe in the Early Vote Precinct. If he has any questions then he will be allowed to ask the Chief Officer of the precinct, when they are not busy, questions. It has been a steady continuous flow of voters from day one that average about twenty to thirty or voters per day which will increase as we continue. It had also been suggested by the Registrar that if they had any questions to please give the office a call or write down their question or concerns so that the staff would have a chance to investigate or find an answer to their question or concern and get back with them in a timely manner. That way a voter or early vote staff would not feel intimidated. The observer would not feel like they had to drop by the precinct while we had voters inside trying to cast their vote in secret. The Registrar was advised this by the Sheriff. Later a huge sign had been placed in front of the Health & Human Service Building, which house other county departments, on the second day of Early Voting urging people to "Come Join the Fight"; The Registrar checked with the County Administrator about that type of sign, who checked with the County Legal officers/ attorneys and

said that sign would have to be removed because it could be taken out of content to suggest more or “provoke” violence. So far it has not been put up again.

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CONCERNS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS: The Vice Chairman came into the office and observed on the first day of Early Voting He had a conversation with the Registrar and staff that we spend time in discussion about staff having repeatedly answer technical questions about the voting machines during the busiest time of the year before an election, which we also get requested by other third-party groups with FOIA the (Freedom Of Information Act), which arrives in emails not to mention the continuous emails that come from the Department of Elections daily in regards to the Election and new materials that have to be talked about before election day to the officers and making sure we understand all the Advisories that Elect send out. We explored several scenarios in order to explain in a courteous way to the inquiring person that they were interrupting office activity on issues that should be engaged by the Electoral Board or Registrar and staff at some other time during the year. Many of the issues are not the type we can solve as a local board or staff and most, if not all are covered by Virginia Code which we follow and abide by. Due to the staff having to bear the brunt of such questioning only adds to the stress and anxious atmosphere to the point of the State Board is currently offering a seminar addressing the atmosphere of election crunch time. If you or any of the parties have concerns, they would like an answer to as they come to mind during the election season, please jot them down then we can address them as time and opportunity permits. We endorse the interest in the electoral process, looking forward to serve the parties and voters at large. No other comments were made on voter integrity and no Closed session was carried out by the Board in this meeting. We attend to run this election as safe and efficient as permitted under the guidance of the Virginia Department of Elections and Virginia Law code of Virginia, as always.

APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL OFFICERS OF ELECTION: The Registrar told the Board members that we had managed to receive job applications from fifteen new potential Officer of Election. Human Resources had another turnover in staff and we have now managed to get these people through the process in order for them to work in the November General and Special election Chairman Moss asked for a motion to be carried on the new officers. Vice Chairman Jeffries made a motion and Secretary Winson seconded the motion; members were polled:

George B. Winson                      Aye

Charles E. Moss, Sr.           Aye  
William M. Jeffries           Aye

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The fifteen names will be added to and made a part of these minutes

Chairman Moss informed the Board that he had been in contact with the same company that cleaned the polling laces after the last two elections to clean again at the same price again and said that he would be in contact with the County Administrator to let him know, if the members agreed to do so. Chairman Moss asked for a motion to be carried. Vice Chairman Jeffries made a motion and Secretary Winson seconded the motion; members were polled:

George B. Winson           Aye  
Charles E. Moss, Sr.       Aye  
William M. Jeffries       Aye

The Registrar informed the Board members that the Early Vote precinct was doing extremely well with Early In-Person voting. We were now averaging seventy-five people a day with more voters calling in to check on deadline dates and hours. We had started to tap into our supply of ballots to go out to the precincts on election day. It was asked then if we should order more ballots. We had started out with sixty percent of voters (17,800 registered voters) as of August 1, 2021. We also noticed that the number of voters had increased to over (18,002 by October 1, 2021 and the deadline for changes and registration was still two weeks away. Secretary Winson suggested that we should order three thousand more to be on the safe side. Chairman Moss asked for a motion to be carried. Secretary Winson made a motion that that the Registrar would order three thousand additional ballots for the November 2, 2021 General and Special Election; Vice chairman Jeffries seconded. Members were polled: Training date was scheduled for Thursday October 14, 2021 via virtual training on Web-Ex at 6:30 p.m.

George B. Winson           Aye  
Charles E. Moss, Sr.       Aye  
William M. Jeffries       Aye

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date Prepared \_\_\_\_\_

December 8, 2021

Vice-Chairman