

## May 11, 2020 Emergency Electoral Board Meeting

Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton called the meeting to order at 10:11 AM.

In attendance: Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton, Chair; Frank Lucente, Vice Chair; Robert Horowitz, Secretary.

The meeting was moved to the Third Floor Conference room so we could properly adhere to the Social Distancing.

The Board reviewed and discussed the Personal Protection Equipment that has been delivered and what is expected for the May 19, 2020 Local General Election.

The Commonwealth/ELECT has provided the following:

Single use throw away/give away pens = 6,920 (May best case scenario was 2,500 sent to City Council and the one sent to ELECT for a June scenario was 3,500 for a total of 6,000)

Single Use Privacy Sleeves, actually Folders = 7,000 (the quantities were the same as pens, though not on survey or considered, though recommended at the time)

Gloves sent as individuals but figured as pairs Large 600 pairs, X Large 200 pairs = total= 800 pairs of Gloves (May scenario 480 pairs June Scenario 800 pairs = total= 1,280 pairs)

As of this meeting Masks (probably GFE95 surgical masks not N95), face shields, hand sanitizers and Sanitizing Cloths have not been delivered; but are expected as per emails from ELECT.

Mr. Horowitz had indicated to Mr. Hamp that we would update him as our materials would arrive. Since the Commonwealth seems to be fulfilling their responsibilities for PPE, the City supply should be a back-up. For example, if the number of gloves we received is used as was predicted, we would have only 207 pairs for June (if no others are sent). We would therefore seek the additional 593 + pairs that was predicted for June from the City.

Mr. Horowitz proposed and moved the EB agree to inform Mr. Hamp about the materials sent and remind him that the local community must assist with safety materials and supplies, as indicated below:

From The Virginia Department of Elections Guidance for May Elections sent April 24, 2020:

“In addition, it is important that you also reach out to your local emergency Management departments to request safety materials and supplies.”

Ms. Bouldin-Clopton seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Mr. Horowitz began the discussion pertaining to the responsibility of Officers of Election (OE) to wear PPE. One of the Chiefs designated for this election, contacted Lisa, and requested to not wear a mask.

Mr. Horowitz believed that that cannot be accepted. All OE and Pages must wear PPE, especially Chiefs and Asst. Chiefs. The EB is responsible for the safety of the voters and the election officials who work the polls. As is stated by the CDC and WHO surgical masks should be worn because they can help protect wearers from getting others sick. (if N95 Masks are not available [correctly reserved for healthcare providers] we may receive surgical masks) The masks will not necessarily protect the wearer but will help protect the public the wearer will come in contact with including voters and other OE. If an OE or Page does not wish to wear the PPE for health reasons or principle, they should not work this election. Nothing will be put in their record and they will be called upon to work in future elections that don't take place in a health emergency circumstance such as we are in now.

Lisa Jeffers, Director of Elections took the lead in contacting the remarkable volunteers who came forward, especially those from other election locations. Probably a statement of that requirement to wear PPE should have been included.

Mr. Horowitz moved that since OE are paid employees who work for the EB (not the registrar). They, like supermarket workers and other essential workers, must wear PPE to protect their customers, the voters, and themselves. Perception is as important as safety. Obviously, all election officials who participate at training must

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wear PPE, as well. This will put us in compliance with the Executive Order #61(?) that will formally be announced on May 12, 2020 stating that:

“Employees working in customer-facing areas must wear face coverings over their nose and mouth at all times”

If any OE or Volunteer/Page will not comply, we will thank them for applying and indicate that they cannot work during this May 19, 2020 Local Election.

Mr. Lucente Seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Friday May 8, 2020 marked the beginning of absentee voting for the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Primary Election. Yesterday the absentee ballots for the primary arrived. Also, new instructions for absentee voting arrived that does not include the need for witnesses for the June 23<sup>rd</sup> election. Today Ms. Jeffers will be sending out the first 60 absentee ballots.

A discussion on the merits of Voting By Mail was held by the Board.

Mr. Horowitz moved that It is not too late for the Electoral Board to communicate to the Governor, the State Board of Elections and Commissioner Piper to authorize the June Republican Primary Election as an Absentee Vote By Mail Election. Because other election locations will be conducting Commonwealth wide primaries, Officers of Election will not be available to work in Waynesboro. If the Corona Virus threat is still present, there may be an acute shortage of Officers of Election to work the polls. Therefore the Waynesboro Electoral Board, because we all agree that Voting By Mail is the safest method of voting during a pandemic and is also one of the most secure methods of voting with very minimal threat from fraud (see the Heritage Foundation and the Brennan Institute of Justice who have done extensive studies proving this), should be united in sending out communiques strongly recommending the June Primary Election be a Vote By Mail Absentee Voting Election. Our communication should be sent individually and combined as the Waynesboro Electoral Board.

Ms. Bouldin-Clopton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The Board discussed following the Lexington EB in determining if the Board can declare a Vote By Mail Absentee Voting Election. There does not seem to be any Virginia Code preventing this. Code does in an emergency permit the Commissioner of Elections to take this action for all election locations. The Board agreed to research this issue further and discuss it in detail after the May Election canvass is completed.

The Board discussed the need for signage to help voters locate the separate and distinct Ward locations at Kate Collins Middle School. In the requests for assistance we had not included signage. All agreed the City should pay for these signs.

Signs recommended in Virginia Department of Elections Guidance for the May election include:

Signage can be a helpful tool in informing the public of necessary precautions. These could include, but are not limited to:

- Signs telling voters to wait outside if there are more than 10 people inside.
- Signs encouraging curbside voting for eligible voters.
- Signage with CDC guidelines on how to prevent the spread of the virus and how-to social distance.

It the refers to a CDC Fact Sheet link:

CDC Fact Sheets:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>

In addition, we will need Large Ward signs (giant Ward A, Ward B, etc. signs). We will need smaller signs giving movement directions toward Wards and identifying signs (again Ward A, Ward B etc.) at Ward entrances. Perhaps we should note on signs previous location for example:

**Ward A,**

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previously Basic United Methodist Church

The board agreed the request for signage be sent to the City Council and City Manager. Mr. Horowitz agreed to do this.

Mr. Lucente and Ms. Bouldin-Clopton agreed to post signs at the entrances to the regular Ward locations informing the voting public that they are close and informing them that all voting will be at the Kate Collins Middle School. If the City doesn't provide those signs, Ms. Bouldin-Clopton indicated she can print them.

The Board discussed the May 14, 2020 training for OE to be held at Kate Collins Middle School. Once the actual Election Day guidelines arrive, they must be included in the training, or if the training has already taken place, communicate additions that may not have been conveyed to the OE.

The Board agreed to request that that the third floor Conference Room in the Gorsuch Building be exclusively used by the Electoral Board and Director of Elections to store PPE and other supplies necessary to conduct the May and June elections, as well as, having a secure location to store returned absentee ballots.

The Board agreed that the May 20, 2020 Canvass Meeting will begin at 10 AM.

Mr. Lucent moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mr. Horowitz. All approved,  
The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM

Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton, Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Frank Lucente, Vice Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Robert Horowitz, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_