

July 10, 2019 Waynesboro Electoral Board Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2019 Electoral Board called to order at 8:35a by Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton. In attendance were Chair: Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton, Vice Chair Frank Lucente, Secretary Robert Horowitz, Director of Elections Lis Jeffers and special guest City Manager: Mike Hamp 11.

Mayor Short was invited, as well, but was unable to attend due to unexpected work conflict.

With minutes not yet read by all members, we postponed acceptance until after having our guest open discussion.

Mr. Hamp wanted to readdress the cities needs for space and review the EB/Registrar's concerns. Mr. Hamp understood that there should be no interference with free, proper compliant elections. He also wanted to review the EB/Registrars concerns and perhaps that will help him find other specs that meets those requirements. He pointed that his main concern was accommodating the space needs of Commonwealth Attorney, David Ledbetter's office. He pointed that The Commonwealth Attorney would need space that is best suited to be near the court and police departments. He also noted that he had no plan at this time but wanted to be sure any possible suggestions made in the future address our concerns.

Ms. Bouldin-Clopton noted that the three minimum issues 1) Space to accommodate our equipment, voters coming in to register, check on voting issues, voting absentee, and any disabled citizens who use our services, 2) Security not only of the offices but the visitors and staff as well as cyber security, and 3) Ease of access for the public including meeting handicap needs, parking and central location for all citizens. Mr. Horowitz spoke especially to the cyber security issues. He noted that we will be hosting a commonwealth mandated security audit that will include City management, the city IT leaders, the state and city police, fire department and first aid corp.

Ms. Bouldin-Clopton and Mr. Horowitz spoke of critical circumstances that since 2016 require us not only to maintain our fair and integral election process but must also rule out voter's perception of impropriety.

We discussed the benefits of staying in the Gorsuch Building: police department, OCS, secure third floor for training Officers of election and storing voting equipment and pollbooks, ease of access to voters, adequate street parking, easy access to Court of Court to whom voting paperwork and ballots must be stored.

Mr. Lucente suggested we cut to the chase. The EB and Registrar need this location. Perhaps, he suggested, The Commonwealth Attorney can have a satellite office close enough for easy access to the court and police, but large enough to accommodate his growing staff and functions much of which does not require access to court. He also noted that at one time around 2005 the prosecutor's office was entirely located at an offsite location.

There was a general discussion of future needs by the EB/Registrar including no excuse absentee voting to go in affect 7/1/2019 that will be implemented for the 2020 Presidential elections, the possible 5 election processes including primaries and elections during the 2019 fiscal year and the 2021 fiscal budget year presidential election in November 2020. Also, a general discussion of the 2021 redistricting that may be required after the 2020 census. Indeed, one ward must be redrawn (D) because it has passed 4000 registered voters and, therefore, must be redesigned regardless of the census; by law no ward can have more than 5000 registered voters.

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It was agreed that this discussion on space needs was time well spent. It was productive. The Board again reiterated that it will work with the City manager and City Council to assist them as long as the requirements of the EB/Registrar are met. Mr. Hamp was pleased that we are open to further discussion and consideration of the city's recommendations. He also reiterated that any recommendations would address the requirements of the voting process.

Mr. Hamp left the meeting at 10a.

The minutes were reintroduced. After perusal, Ms. Bouldin-Clopton moved and Mr. Lucente seconded approval of the minutes that were then unanimously approved.

Ms. Bouldin-Compton opened the discussion and evaluation of the Registrar, as required by law. Ms. Jeffers was asked to leave the EB Office so we could do the evaluation.

Ms. Bouldin-Clopton read the Part 1 Instructions of the Performance review. The notes were entered on a draft form. Discussion was held on each question, as needed.

The rough draft was finished and will be reviewed and typed up before providing the results to the General Registrar for her comments and before submitting the completed form to Department of Elections.

The unanimous agreement between the members of the Electoral Board was an excellent evaluation for the General Registrar.

Due to the personal nature of these discussions, separate notes will be maintained and placed in Ms. Jeffers personnel file.

Chair Ms. Bouldin-Clopton moved, and Vice Chair Frank Lucente seconded that the meeting be closed. The meeting ended at 11:15p

Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton, Chair _____ Date _____

Frank Lucente, Vice Chair _____ Date _____

Robert Horowitz, Secretary _____ Date _____