

Albemarle County Electoral Board

Virtual and In Person Meeting

January 12, 2022

Location: Albemarle County Office Building, 5th Street

Attendance: Jim Heilman, Michael Rodemeyer, Nancy Muir, Jake Washburne, Erin Davis, Lauren Eddy, and Anne Schermerhorn

Observers who spoke: Clara Belle Wheeler, Albemarle Republican Committee

The meeting began at 9:31 am.

Nancy made the following statement: This meeting is being held pursuant to and in compliance with the Continuity of Government Ordinance adopted by the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors. The following individuals are physically and electronically present: *(Jake and Lauren were physically present; all others were electronically present.)*

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

The minutes for December 1, 2021 were unanimously approved.

Nancy introduced herself as the new Electoral Board member, replacing Peter Wurzer who retired. She was welcomed by staff and other Board members.

Electoral Board Reorganization. Michael moved the election of Nancy Muir as Chair, Michael Rodemeyer as Vice-chair, and Jim Heilman as Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

Redistricting. Jake summarized the current status of our redistricting of Albemarle County. A work session on this was held on January 5. A second work session is scheduled for January 14. Brian Becker of the County's GIS Division and Michael have been working on redistricting options. Jake expressed concern about the calendar/schedule (approved by the Board of Supervisors) for finishing redistricting because it doesn't have a plan adoption (by the Board of Supervisors) taking place until after early voting will have begun (assuming we have June primaries). The Board echoed his concern. He will address the Clerk of the Board with our concerns. Jim mentioned that, though the work sessions are being held by an ad hoc committee of Board, staff, and others, final decisions of what plan or plans are presented to the Board of Supervisors should be made by Jake, Brian, and Anthony Bessette, our attorney.

PrintElect ballot printing. Jake said that PrintElect has sent an explanation (shared with the Board) of how the ballot-labelling mix-up for the November 2, 2021 election in the Crozet area precincts occurred. He has added up the time spent by staff in dealing with the mix-up. It adds up to about \$1,800 of staff time. He suggested that perhaps we should ask for credit toward future PrintElect expenses we incur. Discussion ensued. There was also discussion of switching to a different printer. Jim suggested sending a letter from the Board and Jake asking for a credit. The Board concurred.

Election Officer Management Software. Jake said that the Election Force software that we bought and used this past year has not lived up to expectations. Erin and Anne have looked at an alternative called EasyVote and would like to switch to that – at a cost of \$12,000 per year. The purchase has been approved by our Office of Management and Budget (OMB). It will also have to be approved by the County's software review committee. Discussion ensued.

Electronic Pollbook (EPB) Upgrade. Jake said that ELECT has dictated that our EPB software must be upgraded before the next election -- mainly to address some security concerns. He has sent a request for this to OMB as a special funding need. He said that it will have a similar screen format as the current software.

Ballot-on-demand Printers. The General Assembly has said that in the future all localities must be able to report early-in-person (and mail) votes by precinct rather than reporting them all together in the Central Absentee Precinct as has been done for many years. Since it will be extremely difficult to print and accurately distribute 30 different ballot styles (one per precinct), Jake believes the best solution is to purchase ballot-on-demand printers. This will be a printer connected to the EPB that will automatically print the ballot for a voter's precinct. He believes we will need five of these for our early-in-person voting. Discussion ensued. Clara Belle said that there is software that can be put on the scanners that will print a precinct code on the ballot and that we should check with Chesapeake and Winchester about this.

Chiefs' Manual Revisions. Erin said that she has put together a group of our Election Chief Officers to review and provide input on how to improve the Manual and make it more user-friendly. Michael is very involved with this process. He said that he is also looking in to buying electronic tablets – with the Manual programmed in them – for Chiefs' use on election day.

Virginia Electoral Board Association (VEBA) Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held March 18-20. All Board members indicated they will attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Heilman
Secretary, Albemarle County Electoral Board