



Anne Dover
Director

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Elections & Registration

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION
Cherokee County Elections and Registration Building
193 Lamar Haley Parkway
Canton, GA 30114

Monday, August 7, 2023 – 9:30am

Board Members Present: Chair Steve Divine, Julie Glade, Sheree Giardino, John Wallace, Larry Hand

Others Present: Anne Dover, Director; staff.

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 9:30am.

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Beth Mercure

Approval of Monthly Board Meeting Agenda: Motion to approve agenda by Member Glade, second by Member Wallace. Motion carries 5-0.

Approval of Minutes of July 3, 2023: Motion to approve minutes by Member Hand, second by Member Glade. Motion carries 5-0.

Voter Challenge Hearings: Voter challenge list incorporated by reference. Two voters on list notified by first class mail of hearing date and time to challenge the right to remain registered to vote. Names called without response. Motion to remove from voter rolls by Member Giardino, second by Member Hand. Motion carries 5-0.

Executive Session: Motion to strike Executive Session for lack of subject matter by Member Giardino, second by Member Wallace. Motion carries 5-0.

Director's Report: Report by Director Anne Dover. A written copy of the Director's Report is incorporated by reference herein. Motion to approve moving BOER meetings beginning September 11, 2023, by Member Glade, second by Member Wallace. Motion carries 5-0. Director Dover, responding to Member Wallace's question, clarifies that there is no charge to municipalities for elections unless it is a stand-alone election. Municipality is billed for stand-alone election, and funds are returned to the general treasury of Cherokee County.

Old Business: none

New business:

- BOER Meetings moving to The Bluffs as of September, 2023.
- First Baptist Church will not be available as polling location. Cherokee Board of Education has approved use of the middle school for voting. Board of Education has not yet committed to using new location for all of 2024, but negotiations continue.
- Chair Divine addresses change of venue for BOER meetings. Change is necessary for recording meetings and virtual access, but change of time would require a change in the BOER bylaws; meeting time will remain at 9:30am.
- New officers for BOER: Motion to nominate Member Giardino as secretary by Member Wallace, second by Member Hand. Motion carries 5-0. Motion to nominate Member Glade as Vice Chair by Member Wallace, second by Chair Divine. Motion carries 5-0. Motion to close New Business by Member Glade, second by Member Hand. Motion carries 5-0.

Public Comments: Speakers are each allotted three minutes.

- Speaker #1: Bruce Burnaman—waives speaking time.
- Speaker #2: Brenda Reprियो (Cherokee County)--copy of remarks tendered to Board and incorporated by reference herein.
- Speaker #3: Rita Rohrssen (Cherokee County)--copy of remarks tendered to Board and incorporated by reference herein.
- Speaker #4: Sondra Martin (Cherokee County)—copy of remarks tendered to Board and incorporated by reference herein.
- Speaker #5: Kelly Sirois (Cherokee County)--copy of remarks tendered to Board and incorporated by reference herein.
- Speaker #6: Cindy Schmitt (Cherokee County)—copy of remarks tendered to Board and incorporated by reference herein.
- Speaker #7: Beth Mercure (Cherokee County)
- Speaker #8: Linda Kaminski—waives speaking time
- Speaker #9: Bruce Burnaman (Cherokee County)--renews request to speak (no objections to request).

Motion to close public comments by Member Glade, second by Member Wallace. Motion carries 5-0.

Board Comments:

Member Glade commented that the Board is aware of the issues raised in public comment. The concerns are complicated and require careful study of all sides. She addressed concerns about Athens-Clarke being fined by SEB, and not wanting Cherokee taxpayers to incur liability for failing to follow state law.

Member Wallace urges voters to address their list of suggestions about how to return the Georgia elections to paper ballots by a letter to the Georgia Speaker, Lt. Governor, and the entire Cherokee State Delegation. Their efforts would be to change the elections law that the SOS has to follow.

Member Hand speaks about encouraging legislature to address concerns in special legislative session, and that Board should consider advocating for same via letter.

Member Giardino does not support Board advocating for special legislative session.

Chair Divine reads from written statement, incorporated by reference herein.

Motion to close Board Comments by Member Wallace, second by Member Glade. Motion carries 5-0.

Adjournment: Motion by Member Hand, second by Member Wallace . Motion carries 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:19am.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheree Giardino', written in a cursive style.

Sheree Giardino, Secretary