

**City of Harrisonburg Electoral Board Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**Council Conference Room**  
**September 12, 2016**  
**10:00 PM**  
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**In Attendance**

**Sandra Price-Stroble, Chairman; Bill Ney, Vice Chairman; Jane Grant Burner, Secretary; Debbie Logan Officer of Election [Registrar] for the City of Harrisonburg, along with Assistant Registrars Donna Wimer and Diane Nardi, Tony Brown, a Daily News Record reporter, and Josh Humphries, JMU Representative.**

**Chairman Price-Stroble called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.**

**Welcome to Visitors and Public Comment Session**

**Josh Humphries, Tony Brown and Assistant Registrars were welcomed.**

**A motion was made by Ney to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Burner. All board members voted in favor.**

**Ney moved to approve minutes from the August 23, 2016 meeting. Motion was seconded by Price-Stroble. All board members voted in favor.**

**Ney moved to approve the agenda and Burner seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor.**

**Electoral Board meeting agendas were discussed in reference to mandatory notice of agendas posted to the Harrisonburg City Website. The Board of Elections of the State of Virginia advised that agendas are not required to be posted but these agendas will be sent out Friday before a Monday meeting as a courtesy.**

**Brown, Daily Newspaper Reporter, requested to be added to the email distribution list for all Electoral Board Meetings.**

**Agenda**

**Communications from ELECT and SBE; Voter applicants cannot be registered in two states, but since it is not starred on the voter registration forms the applicant cannot be denied.**

**Observers at the polls can sit close enough to hear and see, but cannot speak or disrupt in any way. Chairs, located behind EPB check in will be provided for the observers.**

**Humphries spoke in reference to JMU's SGA and the Electoral Board meeting with the group on Tuesday – September 13<sup>th</sup> on campus at 5:15PM. Ney will meet with SGA group. The Electoral Board will meet with the Dukes Votes Group at JMU on Wednesday – September 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM for a training session. Humphries will obtain parking passes for the Electoral Board.**

A review of the room lay out was discussed on the needs of the city precincts. Needed items for the precincts are privacy booths, stanchions, cones and parking signs.

Testing of voting machines will take place in the basement of the municipal building on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM. The Registrar [Officer of Election] is in possession of the MediaS sticks for the purpose of the testing process. The Registrar's Office will be responsible for sending out notice to applicable persons in reference to the testing of the election machines.

Assistant Registrar, Donna Wimer has contacted Ande Banks and gave the board an update on the usage of acceptable rooms in the municipal building for the purpose of the Cap Precinct.

Communication will need to be made with the Harrisburg City Public Works trucks and with the school and building staffs as to the usage of each city precinct the day before the November 7<sup>th</sup> election, for the purpose of moving equipment into the precincts.

Price-Stroble made a motion to invite Harrisonburg City Police, State Police, JMU Police, and Fire and Safety to the next Electoral Board Meeting. Burner seconded the motion. Price - Stroble will send out invitations to each of the above stated entities. Price-Stroble and Burner voted for these invitations to be sent to police and fire and rescue and Ney abstained.

Method of checking in voters at the precincts was discussed. Price-Stroble made a motion to have a ballot officer for each electronic Poll Book. Motion died for lack of a second. Chair wanted to go on the record stating that Ney and Burner were making a wrong decision in this matter.

### Registrar [Officer of Election] Report

- **Ballots have been approved**
- **250 absentee ballot requests have been made thus far to the Harrisonburg Office**
- **Since August 1<sup>st</sup> there have been 3945 voting records [new, changes, denials] submitted**
- **Full middle name is now required on the voter registration unless they are already in the system. JMU has had many denials due to middle name scenario**
- **Harrisonburg City has 27,000 registered voters and it has been advised from the State Board of Elections to order the full amount of registered voters. Registrar, Logan, suggests that 30,000 will need to be ordered due to not knowing how many new registrations will come through her office between now and the cutoff of voter registrations for this cycle. The Electoral Board approved the suggested number of ballots to be ordered specified by the registrar.**
- **There will be two amendments on the ballot in the November 2016 election. These amendments will be listed on the city web site and in a future article published in the Daily News Record**
- **An ad will go in the Daily News Record newspaper requesting the need for additional Officers of Election for the city precincts**

- **Twelve to fourteen Officers of Elections are projected to be needed for each precinct**
- **If a precinct has over 4,000 registered voters, an additional voter scanner will be needed as there can only be 4,000 voters per scanner. Stone Spring Precinct currently has 4,166 registered to vote, but 1,206 are inactive. If an additional scanner is needed the City of Harrisonburg will be mandated to purchase a second scanner. The decision to order another scanner will not be necessary until the Electoral Board meets on September 26th as a new machine can be ordered within a three week period of time**
- **A group called "The Voter Participation Center" is sending out letters to voters in reference to current voter status. This is confusing some voters, especially the elderly**

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- **This statement was made by Chris Bean at the Commonwealth's Attorney's office:**

**Several weeks ago an organization engaged in registering voters for the upcoming election submitted numerous voter registration applications. A review by my office staff revealed that a number of these registration applications appeared false. An affected party's family member notified the Commonwealth's Attorney and an investigation was opened by the Harrisonburg Police Department. The matter has also been investigated by the FBI. At this time, the Harrisonburg Police Department continues its investigation but my understanding is the matter has been referred to the Commonwealth's Attorney and the United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia. So far the investigation has revealed a number of voter registration applications that are false. At some point before the election, we will submit a list of the false voter registrations to the Electoral Board to have those registrations cancelled. This is all the information I have at this time.**

**It has come to my attention that this matter has hit social media and I want everyone to know that our office is handling this as advised by the City Attorney, the Commonwealth's Attorney the police investigator and the FBI Agent.**

**Questions can be directed to Chris Bean at the Commonwealth's Attorney's office.**

- **Also, any further questions as to the above mentioned voter fraud case can also be directed to Mary Hope Vass of the City of Harrisonburg**
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- **The Central Absentee Precinct, opening September 23<sup>rd</sup>, will require two employees to cover the work load each day through November 5<sup>th</sup>**

- **The Page Program will be in use for the November Election and Mr. Hook, a government teacher, at Harrisonburg High School has been contacted in reference to recruiting high school students to work with The Page Program in the city precincts**
- **Specifically made boxes will be ordered and used in the bottom of the voting scanning machines to help with ballot collection**
- **Local nursing homes have been contacted and only VMRC and Crestwood have responded to the office of the Registrar. Vans attached to the responding nursing homes will be utilized on election day**
- **The title of 'City Office of Elections' will replace the title of Registrar. This change has occurred on the state level**
- **A ballot was received by the Registrar that had been mailed over a year ago. The Electoral Board voted not to able to accept the ballot due the late arrival**

### **Closed Session**

**A motion was made at 11:55AM by Ney and seconded by Price-Stroble to adjourn the public session and open meeting in Closed Session according to authority of the Code of Virginia 2.2-3707 and 2.2-3708 for the purpose of discussion of personnel and assignment of officers for the November 8<sup>th</sup> election. All board members voted in favor.**

### **Recess**

**Session recessed and then reconvened at 12:20PM**

### **Open Session**

**Closed Session adjourned at 1:00 PM with a motion from Ney to return to public session and certify by Roll Call vote that the only matters as stated were discussed in the closed session. This was seconded by Burner and approved. A Roll Call vote was taken; Price-Stroble – yes, Ney - yes, and Burner-yes. As required by 2.210-3712-D of the Code of Virginia to certify that during the Closed Session only business transpired as allowed according to the authority of code 2.2-371-A1. Ney - yes, Burner -yes, Price-Stroble-yes.**

**Ney made the motion to approve the new Officers of Elections reviewed in Closed Session. Burner seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**

### **Adjournment**

**With no further business a motion was made by Ney and seconded by Price-Stroble to adjourn the meeting at 1:05 PM. All board members voted in favor.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Grant Burner  
Secretary**