

**MATHEWS COUNTY ELECTORAL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES 5/7/24
CIRCUIT COURT BUILDING JURY ROOM**

Meeting was called to order at 10:00. All members present.
The tentative meeting for 6/4/24 if needed-was confirmed. Set up for the June 18 primary will be 6/17.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved 3-0.

ELECTION OFFICER DISCUSSION:

GR Faulkner reported difficulty in getting Election Officer to work the June primary. A shortage of EOs, especially Republicans, is making staffing on Primary Day challenging. Thorpe and Zych will mention this at next week's County Republican meeting.

JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY AND JUNE PRIMARY CANVASSING

Wed. June 19 is both the Juneteenth holiday and the traditional post-election/primary canvassing meeting. After discussion, Thorpe motioned, Zych seconded, and the motion passed 3-0 for the Board to conduct the canvass on Wed. June, 19 (Juneteenth). Zych will leave the county after canvassing on the 19th, missing certification on Monday, 6/24/24. Zych returns on the 6/26. GR Faulkner will verify that the certification forms may be signed on 6/26.

CLOSED SESSION

At 10:25, Thorpe moved to enter into a closed session to discuss Election Officer June Primary precinct assignments. Zych seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

The Electoral Board of Mathews County convenes in closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 A)(1) of the Code of Virginia for the "Discussion of performance of appointee of the Mathews County Director of Elections and General Registrar and Election official(s). The protection of the privacy of individuals in personnel matters not related to public business.

At 11:05, Thorpe motioned to close the closed session and to reopen the open session. Zych seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.

The Mathews County Electoral Board certify that in the closed session just concluded, to the best of each member's knowledge: (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the board in the closed meeting.

ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING CLOSED SESSION.

Zych motioned that the Board approve the amended June Primary Election Officer precinct assignments. Thorpe seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

Due to availability of EOs, and in light of expected light voter turn-out for the June primary, precincts will work with smaller staffs. Two additional EOs will be available to work in case of EO personal emergency. Those stand-bys will be specifically trained for that possibility.

COMMUNICATIONS

Bohn questioned the status of the GR's request for a full-time deputy in the draft county budget proposal. Bohn motioned that Thorpe write a short letter from the EB to be delivered to BOS members before the next budget meeting supporting the inclusion of this position. Zych seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

Adding the position this year will cost less than \$50,000 for the current fiscal year. There should be some savings from EO early voting staffing performed if the position is filled promptly. In future budget cycles, the cost for the added position should drop to little more than the cost for benefits.

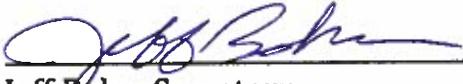
The full-time Deputy General Registrar will be able to run elections and will be able to conduct all official GR functions---a situation not possible with the current part-time GR assistant.

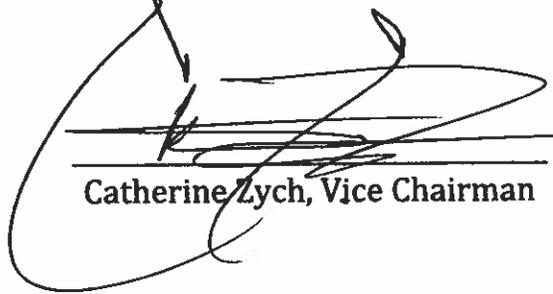
Thorpe also volunteered to revise the election follow-up letter previously approved. The Board feels that the letter might be more effective if delivered close to the November election. Revisions would reflect this delay of delivery only, making the letter more timely. Zych motioned, Bohn seconded, and the motion passed 3-0. The letter will be in the hands of County political party heads and candidates by late October.

Zych motioned to close the meeting. Thorpe seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38.

Jeff Bohn, Electoral Board Secretary
5/17, 2024


Jeff Bohn, Secretary


Catherine Zych, Vice Chairman


Josephine Thorpe, Chairman