

Amelia County Electoral Board
Minutes – February 7, 2024

ATTENDEES: Mary Alice Williams, Chair Brenda Johnson, Secretary
 Adria Dieffenbach, Vice Chair Deborah Hathorn, Director of Elections/GR
 Martha Muniz, ACRC Chair

The Amelia County Electoral Board met on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 in the Commonwealth Attorney's conference room. The meeting was called to order by Chair Williams at 10:00 AM.

Minutes of the January 11, 2024 meeting was approved as presented. The agenda was approved by consensus with a few additions. .

BUDGET –

GENERAL COMMENTS:

L. Spittle continues to improve from her surgery. Return to work date is TBD. Several OOE's are assisting in the office with her duties and pre-election preparation.

All EB members have or are in the process of submitting the required paperwork to the county to be processed as county employees.

Legislative update: (1) the bill to reduce early voting to fewer than 45 days failed. We are continuing to watch action on other bills that may impact the voting process or voters. (2) VEBA is supporting a bill that will allow pre-processing fourteen (14) days in advance versus the current seven (7) days.

We reviewed the updated FY2025 budget. There is a bill to have a Chief Deputy Registrar in each locality with salary set at 60% of the General Registrar's salary. Hathorn will send EB a copy of the budget that will be submitted to the county by February 9th. Motion made, seconded and approved to amend the FY25 budget to increase travel from \$800 to \$2400 for Electoral Board/Officials

Some OOE's have had a delay in receiving pay for working the November General election. Hathorn was asked to promptly follow up and ensure that all OOE's receive their pay as soon as possible. Going forward, Chair Williams will review the paperwork submitted to the county for OOE's pay.

EB will meet in closed session on Tuesday, February 20th at 10:00 AM to discuss the Annual Security Training.

2024 MARCH DUAL PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY:

Sixty-one (61) in person voters have voted as of February 6th, averaging six to seven voters per day. More than 200 absentee ballots were mailed out and 75 have been returned. A few are in the process of being cured.

Secretary Johnson has contacted Mr. Krause at ACHS and he states that he does have some students interested in being a Page this year.

Updated 2/27/24, 11:28

We reviewed the updated list of OOE's scheduled to work on March 5th. In Precinct #5, D. Waldrop has retired, C. Lewis and P. White have been named co-chiefs. In Precinct #3, K. Wilkerson is unable to work due to surgery.

Risk Limiting Audit (RLA) may be conducted in late November. More information to come.

Secretary Johnson gave a brief report on a successful Boot Camp she attended on Saturday, February 3rd in Bowling Green, VA.

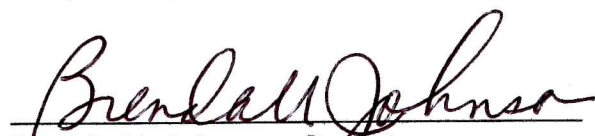
PUBLIC COMMENT: ~~Muniz made many comments and asked questions throughout the meeting.~~ *LM*
Muniz She expressed concern that some OOE's were not treated kindly when inquiring about their pay. She also asked how many absentee ballots had been mailed out and how many returned. She asked who were the OOE's working in the office and if OOE's are paid different amounts in different counties and what the guide was for that.

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5th commencing at 7:00 P.M to begin the canvas.

The Amelia County Electoral Board voted unanimously to go into Closed Session in accordance with State Code §2.2-3711-A (A) (1) at 11:17 A.M. to discuss a confidential matter. At 11:40 A.M., by unanimous vote, we voted to reconvene to open session and certified that to the best of each Board Member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were discussed. Vote: Williams-Yes, Dieffenbach- Yes, and Johnson- Yes.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

 *4/11/24*
Brenda H. Johnson, Secretary