

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS
MEETING MINUTES
September 2, 2021 12:15 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Owen Clarke called the meeting of the Town of Bladensburg Board of Supervisors of Elections to order at 12:20 p.m. with Supervisors Rita Herndon, Judy Sojourner, Joyce Williams, and Pat Williams in attendance.

II. VOTE FOR NEW BOARD CHAIRS: The Board voted to elect Owen Clarke as the new Board of Supervisors of Elections Chair and Judy Sojourner as the Vice Chair. All five supervisors were in favor.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Chair Clarke invited approval of the 08/25/21 meeting minutes, which were approved by all five supervisors.

IV. REVIEW: The Board reviewed the candidates' proof of residency documents for certification.

V. CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION RESULTS: Members of the Board determined that the following candidates are qualified:

- a. Chair Clarke listed the names of candidates that had provided sufficient information to be certified by the Board: Takisha James, Trina Brown, Alban Merino, Daina Shephard, Landus Burroughs, Carletta Lundy, and Carrol McBryde. Vice Chair Sojourner moved to approve the certification of those candidates. Supervisor Joyce Williams seconded the motion with all five supervisors in favor.
- b. Vice Chair Sojourner read a letter and moved to send the letter requesting that Candidate Selwyn Bridgeman submit additional proof of residency documents with all five supervisors in favor. The Board agreed that the documents must be submitted by noon on Tuesday, September, 7, 2021.

VI. CONCERNS BY THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS: Members of the board brought up seven concerns:

- a. Candidate background checks: Supervisor Joyce Williams had an inquiry about candidate background checks being required in the candidate certification process. Ms. Kimberly Greene stated that although formal background checks are not required, the candidates home addresses were verified through the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation website.
- b. Town charter: Supervisor Pat Williams had an inquiry about the Town Charter being updated. Copies of specific sections of the Charter were distributed upon request.
- c. Voting machines: Chair Clarke had an inquiry about the process of obtaining the

voting machines for Election Day. Voting machines will be provided by the same vendor as last time.

- d. Number of voting assistants: Vice Chair Sojourner reminded the Board about the limit of one (1) poll watcher per candidate on Election Day.
- e. Replacement board member: Chair Clarke asked if a new board member would be needed due to the departure of former Chair Lane. A reminder was provided that only (3) board members are necessary under the Town Charter.
- f. Candidate campaigning: Supervisor Joyce Williams asked if candidates are obligated to follow certain campaign promotion procedures. In addition, Supervisor Pat Williams inquired about the candidate's usage of flyers and the requirements. The Board was advised that there are generally not restrictions specific to campaigns, other than under the campaign finance or other specific campaign laws. There is a requirement for "Authority lines" on all campaign publications, such as "By Authority of John Doe for President".
- g. Absentee ballots: Vice Chair Sojourner inquired about the availability and accessibility of absentee ballots. Absentee ballot application forms are at Town Hall, will be available on the Town website, and will be distributed to senior residences and other multi-unit buildings.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS: Supervisor Pat Williams made the following proposals:

- a. Election Day shifts: Supervisor Pat Williams moved to request of the Board of Elections having allotted time slots on Election Day. The motion was approved by consensus with all members in favor.
- b. Candidate biographies: Supervisor Pat Williams suggested that candidate biographies, with 100-word count limits and photograph of the candidate, be added to the Town's website and email newsletter for the current and future elections. All five supervisors were in favor.

VIII. ELECTION DEADLINES: Deadlines are as follows:

- File as Candidate: August 20, 2021 at 5:00 PM.
- First Date to obtain an absentee ballot application: August 20, 2021 at 9:00 AM.
- Turn in proof of residency documents: Original date: September 1, 2021 at 10:00 AM. Secondary date: September 7, 2021 at 12:00 PM (noon).
- Register to vote: September 4, 2021 (Online by midnight)
 - Write in Candidates' ethics forms: September 27, 2021 4:00 PM.
- Absentee ballot application received by Town Clerk: September 20, 2021 at 5:00 PM.
- Write in candidates (if no filed candidates): October 4, 2021
- Turn in absentee ballot: October 4, 2021 at 8:00 PM.
- Election Day: October 4, 2021 from 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM.

IX. SCHEDULE MEETING: A meeting was scheduled and will be held on Tuesday, September

7, 2021 at 12:00 PM.

X. ADJOURNMENT: At 1:20 p.m., Chair Clarke moved to adjourn the meeting; Vice Chair Sojourner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with all five members in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Jefferies
Administrative Aide

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Jefferies", written in a cursive style.A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Owen Clarke", written in a cursive style.

