

Buckingham County Electoral Board Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2023

Dr Karen Cerwinski, Chairwoman

Woody Hanes, Board Member

The called meeting of the Buckingham County electoral board was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by chairwoman Dr Karen Cerwinski.

The invocation and pledge was led by Woody Hanes board member

Adoption of the draft agenda was called for by Dr Karen Cerwinski, chairwoman. Woody Hanes asked to add to the agenda the following: **Board member response** placing it before the public comment time. The agenda was approved as amended.

Dr. Cerwinski called for the vote to accept the minutes of February 7th 2023. Mrs Hanes stated she had corrections from the previous chair that need to be added. Dr. Cerwinski stated that "I need to review those corrections prior to approval.

The chairwoman called for the vote to accept the minutes of March 23 2023 and Mrs. Hanes said there was one correction she wanted to add. The chair stated she needed to review those word changes before accepting the minutes.

The chairwoman called for the vote to go into closed session per Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711A.1. for the purpose of discussion, consideration and appointment of board member. The vote was taken and approved to go into executive closed session. Executive closed session started at 5:07 p.m.

The chairwoman called for the vote to return to open session at 5:15pm and certified that to the best knowledge of each member of this Board (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of Chapter 37 (Virginia Freedom of Information Act) of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which today's executive session was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the executive session.

The chairwoman motioned to have Mrs Hanes serve as interim secretary until reorganization could occur at the next meeting with appointment of the third board member. Mrs Hanes accepted the position and the motion was passed.

The Chairwoman called for the Registrar's report and Mr Luis Gutierrez was introduced and gave his report on the operations of the office. He introduced the deputy registrar, Ginger Chiesa.

The Chair called for public comment time and the following people had signed up to speak:

Joe Anthony
Maggie Snoddy
Ramona Christian
Sue Miles
Frank Howe
Kendra Hanaman
Katherine Thimnakis
Joyce Gooden
Kate Carter
Marie Flowers

They were heard in the order that they had signed in.

The Chairwoman called for Board member comments on the agenda. Mrs Hanes stated

- 1) The meeting that Dr Karen Cerwinski called with only one board member present stating she hired Luis Gutierrez as the interim registrar was an illegal meeting involving only one electoral board member.
- 2) In the previously mentioned meeting of one, she designated herself a Chairwoman of the board. Mrs. Hanes stated she was fulfilling the unexpired term of Chair Gail Braxton which ends in December 2023.
- 3) Concerns regarding hiring of the current registrar may not be in compliance with hiring policies of Buckingham County regarding criminal background checks and drug screen being done prior to interviewing candidates. To date I have not been allowed to see applications resumes and the number of applicants who applied. I have been informed that three African-American women had applied and none were interviewed
- 4) The third board member William Todd Jamerson whose name is on the agenda as the new board member filed baseless claims from the November elections which I have a summary of those complaints.

The chairwoman called for the vote to adjourn at 5:50pm. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Woody Hanes
Interim secretary
Revised 5/23/2023

S:

E:

Dr. Karen A. Cerwinski, Chairwoman Woody Hanes Todd Jamerson

Agenda for Meeting: Friday, April 28, 2023 at 5:00 P.M.

Call to Order *Note: Todd Jamerson is* Dr. Karen A. Cerwinski- Chairwoman

Invocation and Pledge *Not Absent participating* Woody Hanes

Adopt Draft agenda *Motion to Approve* Dr. Karen A. Cerwinski- Chairwoman

① Approve Minutes: February 7, 2023 Dr. Karen A. Cerwinski-Chairwoman

② Approve Minutes: March 23, 2023. Dr. Karen A. Cerwinski-Chairwoman

No further corrections to the minutes they stand as approved.
Executive Session: *I move the Electoral Board table the remainder of the open meeting and go into closed session meeting to discuss consideration and appointment of board member that is justified in Va. Code 2.2-3711A, 1 to go into*

Executive Closed Session. *Motion - 2nd*

Electoral Board Action: *Motion to come out of 2nd* *Return to regular meeting*
I motion Woody Hanes to be the interim secretary until to board has achieved 3 members, 2nd - full compliment

Registrar Report

Public Comment *state name and address*

Adjournment *Motion 2nd*

Dr. Karen A. Cerwinski-Chairwoman

(members of the closed session were the 2 present Board members. I moved the following: Resolved that to the best knowledge of a board member (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of chapter 37 (Virginia Freedom of Information Act) of title 2.2 of the code of Va and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by us today's executive session was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

Electoral Board Meeting

April 28, 2023

5:00 PM

State of the Registrar's Office as of April 12, 2023

1. Navigating the Registrar's Office since my arrival has been consistent, in that progress has been made daily in some form or fashion. Of this fact, I am very pleased. Any progress is good progress.
2. We have had some challenges, especially when I was alone in the Registrar's Office, but considering all circumstances, I am confident that I made progress in the face of adversity as well.
3. I am proud and honored to have recently hired my highly qualified Deputy Registrar, Ms. Ginger Chiesa, who has valuable experience in this environment, and comes to us from Fluvanna County.
4. Ms. Chiesa and I were fully on-boarded with access to VERIS last week, on April 20, 2023, and have been doing our best to navigate the system in order to keep all processes legal, accurate, and with due-diligence
5. Ms. Chiesa and I are gradually accomplishing tasks each day we are here. We have decided to leave the Office of the Registrar open all day, and neither one of us take a lunch break.
6. We are honored to serve the citizens of Buckingham County, and are here for the same reasons you all have made time to be present. We encourage that. We are all here to

assure fair and lawful elections so that everyone who casts a ballot ^{can} do so in confidence.

7. Ms. Chiesa and I are excited to begin this journey, and thank you for your support.

With kindest and sincerest regards,

Luis A. Gutierrez

Interim Director of Elections and Registrar

Buckingham County, VA