

The Northampton County Electoral Board met on Thursday, January 2, 2020, in the Voter Registration Office in Eastville.

PRESENT: Ralph Orzo, Chair
JoAnn Clark, Vice Chair
Joanne Fitchett, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 10:37 A.M. Ralph Orzo made the invocation.

The minutes of the Electoral Board meeting on December 5, 2019, having been reviewed by the Board were approved and signed.

Registrar reported to the Board on the progress of finding a new vendor for the pollbook software. Registrar reported that the Advocate program from Dem-Tech seems to be the best choice as it is affordable and came recommended from other localities. Registrar reminded Board that Advocate was previously used in pollbooks until we switched to the state solution. Board directed Registrar to acquire the software licenses from Dem-Tech to use on our pollbooks.

Board and registrar discussed the recent changes in policy concerning assigning party affiliations for Officers of Election especially concerning Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs. Elect had advised that the office send a list of officers to both parties, and that the parties should claim which officers belong to that party. Board and Registrar saw some obvious flaws with this approach. Board will go back to their respective parties for discussion on the matter.

Registrar reported that the voter taken to trial for reporting false information on a Voter Registration application was acquitted because the judge found there was enough confusion about Gov. McAuliffe's restoration of rights program that the defendant could reasonably have been confused as well.

Registrar and Board talked about plans to attend the VEBA Legislative Day in Richmond. Board and registrar also scheduled Logic and Accuracy Testing for absentee equipment on Tuesday, January 14, at 10:30 am. Finally, Board directed registrar to reserve three rooms for the annual VEBA conference in Hot Springs, VA.

Board adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m. after unanimously agreeing to meet again at 10:30, February 6, 2020.

JoAnne Fitchett, Secretary
