

CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Minutes of meeting held on October 27, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. Members Cheney, White, Hood, and Abernethy were present. The Director was present. The minutes from October 20, 2020 were approved.

The purpose of the meeting was to review and process absentee ballot applications. Due to State Board's Memos 2020-19 and 27, CIV numbers 5964, 12921, and 12931 were accepted even though they were delivered to the Board by persons who do not fall within the statutory class of a near relative.

Including the three applications accepted above, the Board approved 1447 CIV applications, 15 MIL applications, and 20 OVR applications, for a sum of 1482. The members present spot-checked these prior to approval. The CIV applications included eleven which had been "cured" by affidavit according to State Board memo procedures. Ninety-five remain outstanding pending cure notices. Seventy-five have been resent; they cannot be cured because they lack a witness.

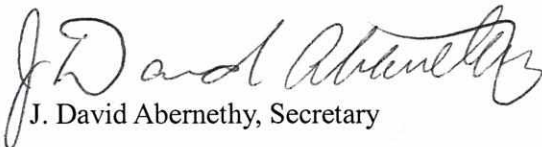
The Board approved the list of 24,534 new one-stop applications.

The ballots from the 1482 applications in the Board office were tabulated. The members present prepared duplicate ballots in cases where the originals could not be machine tabulated due to damage in mailing or overseas or military applications. The sum of the tabulator vote totals from today was 1482.

The office received an incident report concerning an event which took place on October 22, 2020, in the parking lot at the Conover early voting site. The office also received an email dated October 24, 2020, concerning the same incident; the sender of the email was not present at the time of the event. It appears that a woman, not named in either the incident report or the email, had overheard a conversation in the parking lot. The conversation included a mention of money, but no money had changed hands. The office received a statement from a candidate who had observed the incident close at hand and a second-hand statement from the campaign worker who was the subject of the report. The Board members considered both of the written statements, the incident report, and the email, and concluded it was likely that the unnamed woman had misinterpreted what she had overheard. The Director was requested to inform the email sender of the other statements and inform the email sender that she could obtain copies of them.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. David Abernethy, Secretary