

Present: Sarah C. Osborne, Chair; Anne Beamer, Vice-Chair; Gloria Price, Secretary; Stacey Reavis, General Registrar; Mike Hash, Chair, G.C. Supervisors; John Fant, Supervisor at Large; Bill Shepley, Administrator; Stephen Durbin, Attorney by Zoom

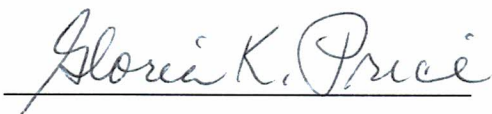
This meeting was called to discuss Reprecincting. Due to the recommendations by the EB Board and Registrar to combine some polling precincts, there have been a few concerns shared with the Administration. The criteria for making these recommendations were discussed by examining the costs for some elections, the shortage of qualified officers to work, 45 days of early voting, mail in voting, communications lacking at some locations and stewardship of the budget. Supervisor Hash said the main concern presented was a hardship on the elderly in voting on Election Day; it is a tradition. The Town of Fries Mayor requested that the Polling Precinct not be combined with Providence. The Registrar pointed out that there are only two officers signed up to work in Fries. Lack of staff is a major issue and there are 45 days of early voting. One mailing would be less confusing for voters.

The ultimate responsibility for redistricting lies with the local governing body. *Constitution of Virginia, Article VII, Section 5; Va. Code 24.2-304.1(B & C)*. Mr. Durbin pointed out the need for preclearance with the DOJ. The deadline for redistricting is March 21, 2022. The Board of Supervisors approved the new District lines according to population, at the February 10 meeting. Included in the new map are some combined precincts, also approved at the meeting. These will be open for comment at a Public Hearing on March 10, 2022. He will compose the ad to be published in the newspaper for the Public Hearing. The establishment of one polling place for each precinct by ordinance is the responsibility of the local governing body. *Va. Code 24.2-307; Va. Code 24.2-310; Va. Code 24.2-310.1*.

Supervisor Fant pointed out that we have up to 60 days before an election to make these changes. Solutions were discussed including split shifts, connecting with the government students at the high school for working if they are going to be 18 and register to vote, costs to mail notifications to all voters for redistricting and those affected by precinct changes. The Polling Precinct changes are not required at this time. Mr. Fant said he understood the costs and suggested the best turnout for voters would be a phased approach from 15 precincts to possibly 10. The approved map has a total of 8 Precincts.

No further business, Mrs. Osborne adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Gloria K. Price, Secretary

Approved by:



Sarah C. Osborne, Chair



Anne Beamer, Vice-Chair