

**Town of Fletcher – Board of Civil Authority
Fletcher Town Clerk’s Office
Monday, December 19, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Civil Board Members

Justices of the Peace: Jeremy Ayotte, Lars Baris, Todd Baumeister, David Clark, Sue Ferguson, Jan Hilborn, Rick Russell

Select Board Members: Rich Bidwell, Jon Bondy, Matt Swartz

Town Clerk: Karrie Sweet

Guests:

Aimee Tinker (Assistant Town Clerk)

1) Call to Order

Karrie Sweet called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

2) Regular Board Business

A. Review Voter Checklist

Aimee presented a list of voters who were slated to be purged from the checklist as they had previously been challenged and had not voted in the last two election cycles. Jeremy made a motion to purge said voters from the checklist. Sue seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Aimee presented a list of voters whose ballots were returned by the Postal Service as “undeliverable” from either the August Primary or November General. These voters could now be challenged. Sue made a motion to challenge said voters. Jeremy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board did a general review of the remaining voter checklist, identifying voters whom are believed to have moved out of town. The Town Clerk will send challenge letters to those individuals.

B. Authorize 2023 Challenges

Lars made a motion to allow the Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk to send challenge letters as they deemed appropriate based on property transfers for the duration of 2023. Matt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Authorize Non-BCA Election Officials

Todd made a motion to allow the Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk to appoint non-BCA members as election officials as necessary for 2023. Lars seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Compensation for Election Officials & Civil Board

Karrie would like to create a form through which election officials and civil board members could choose whether or not they wished to be compensated for their time. In

the past, some people chose to donate their time and this would create a record of that choice.

E. Policy Place Sign Policy

There was a general discussion of political signs on Town property at election time. Currently Fletcher does not have a policy in place regulating this and defers to State Statute on the subject. Karrie said that a couple of residents had told her they felt we shouldn't allow signs at all. She feels that it's never been brought up as a problem before. Historically the signs appear the evening before and day of an election. Those that are not picked up the next morning are brought into the Town Clerk's office.

Bruce feels that the Town Office is a neutral place and therefore signage should not be allowed. Rich questioned how that might affect active write-in candidates whose names are not on the ballot and they want to make their candidacy known. Jeremy feels it falls under the protection of the 2nd amendment and that signage should be allowed. Matt agreed.

Todd made a motion to continue to adhere to State Statute guidance and not enact a policy at this time. Jeremy seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 7 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstaining.

F. Other

Jeremy inquired about the town-wide reappraisal that is going on and whether the BCA should anticipate having to deal with a lot of grievance hearings. Karrie said that it's possible there would be residents taking their grievance to the BCA but it was impossible to know how many at this time.

3) Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.