

May 20, 2022

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 20th day of May, 2022; at 12:00 p.m., there were present:

Beverly M. Booth
Pattie Cooper-Jones
J. David Emert
Odessa H. Pride
Jerry R. Townsend

Absent: Llew W. Gilliam, Jr., James R. Wilck

Also present: Douglas P. Stanley, County Administrator; Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; and Terri Atkins Wilson, County Attorney.

Chairman Pride called the special meeting to order.

Chairman Pride stated:

Due to the COVID-19 Emergency, the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors is operating pursuant to and in compliance with its "EMERGENCY CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS ORDINANCE." Effective August 1, 2021, the Board has re-opened meetings to in-person participation by the public; however, there could still be limited available seating. Citizens are strongly encouraged to participate in meetings through in-person participation, written comments, and/or remote participation by calling: 1-844-890-7777, Access Code: 390313 (If busy, please call again.) Additionally, citizens may view the Board meeting live in its entirety at the County's YouTube Channel, the link to which is provided on the County's website.

Chair Pride offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Stanley, County Administrator, entered the meeting at this time.

In Re: Board Vacancy

Mr. Stanley stated that if the Board of Supervisors wishes to fill the vacancy of the seat held by Supervisor Robert M. "Bobby" Jones - District 201, the Code of Virginia requires that a petition for a special election be filed with the Circuit Court within fifteen (15) days of the creation of the vacancy (by May 30, 2022). The appointment to fill the vacancy until the special election can be held must be made within 45 days (by June 29, 2022).

Supervisor Jones' term of office would have ended December 31, 2023. The individual elected in the special election for District 201 will serve until December 31, 2023 and is then eligible to run for re-election in the November 2023 election, if they so choose.

In order to file a petition with the Circuit Court, it requires a motion and affirmative vote from the Board of Supervisors to request a special election to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Supervisor Jones. It also requires a motion if the Board wishes to conduct the special election with the general election on November 8, 2022. Thirdly, it requires the County Attorney to prepare and file with the Circuit Court a petition for a special election that sets forth those facts as well as prepare a Writ-of-Election to be endorsed by the Judge and entered as an Order of the Court.

Mr. Stanley said the Board may appoint someone to fill the vacancy in the interim. If a majority of the remaining members of the Board cannot agree, or do not act, the judges of the Circuit Court of the County may make the appointment. If agreeable, Mr. Stanley suggested the Board authorize County staff to advertise for applicants for the interim appointment.

Mr. Stanley said that he spoke with Lynette Wright, Registrar, and learned that the special election on a separate date would be at significant cost to the county.

Supervisor Gilliam entered the meeting at this time.

Following some discussion, Supervisor Emert made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Townsend, to request a special election to be held, to fill the vacancy on the Board of Supervisors for District 201, and that the special election be held in conjunction with the General Election on November 8, 2022; to authorize the County Attorney to file the petition and see a Writ of Election from the Prince Edward County Circuit Court for a special election to be held on November 8, 2022; and that the Board authorize County staff to advertise for applicants for an interim appointment for the District 201 seat; the motion carried:

Aye:	Beverly M. Booth Pattie Cooper-Jones J. David Emert Llew W. Gilliam, Jr. Odessa H. Pride Jerry R. Townsend	Nay: None
Absent:	James R. Wilck	

On motion of Chair Pride, seconded by Supervisor Cooper-Jones, and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Beverly M. Booth Pattie Cooper-Jones J. David Emert Llew W. Gilliam, Jr. Odessa H. Pride Jerry R. Townsend	Nay: None
Absent:	James R. Wilck	

the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.