

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
Special Board Meeting, 18 August 2023

Participants: Director Melanie Thibault, Deputy Director Judy Fritts, Kathy Tinsley, Gary Dills, and Jeff Gillette. Ms. Garison and Mr Vanhook were not able to attend.

Observers: Ryan Hanchett, *The Highlander* editor, and Elizabeth Gibson.

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 3 PM. Mr James Derek Taylor has challenged the candidacy of Mr Overton Tucker Chambers for the Highlands Town Board based on his residency. Attachment 1  
The purposes of the meeting are to review the procedures and process for conducting a Candidate Challenge and to develop a schedule for the Challenge.

1. Director Comments: The Director reported that on 17 August 2023 Mr. Overton Tucker Chambers, candidate for The Highlands Town Board, notified her that he was withdrawing his candidacy due to an illness in his family. The Director expressed her regret for the illness and reminded Mr. Chambers that he had to complete a “North Carolina Withdrawal Notice of Candidacy” to withdraw, otherwise the challenge would continue to its conclusion. Subsequently that day, she provided the form to Mr. Chambers via email but has received no response. She followed up the next day with telephone calls to his office, his home and his wireless. Messages were left via voicemail. She has not received a response as of this meeting.
2. Challenge Procedures and Process: The Chair asked Board Member and attorney Jeff Gillette to review the procedures and suggest an agenda. Mr. Gillette reviewed The North Carolina Candidate Challenges Procedures Guide, attachment 2, and rules of evidence. Chair Tinsley asked Mr Gillette to lead the process during the Challenge Hearing. He agreed.
3. Challenge Agenda: Mr. Gillette made a motion to accept the following agenda:
  - a. Call to order and welcome: Chair Tinsley
  - b. Review of procedures – Mr. Gillette
  - c. Opening Statement by Mr. Chambers
  - d. Opening Statement by challenger, Mr. James Derek Taylor
  - e. Presentation of Exhibits by both parties

- f. Opportunity for public presentation of evidence
- g. Closing comments by Mr. Chambers
- h. Closing comments by Mr. Taylor
- i. Rebuttal comments by Mr. Chambers
- j. Board deliberation
- k. Decision announcement – Chair Tinsley
- l. Adjourn

Mr. Dills seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

4. Invoices: The Director provided three invoices for review. The Board reviewed the invoices and Chairman Tinsley signed. Attachment 3.
5. Adjourn: Mr. Dills made a motion to adjourn until 13 September 2023 at 3 PM. Mr. Gillette seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved. The Board adjourned at 3:50 PM.

#### Attachments

1. Candidate Challenge Form provided by Mr Taylor
2. The North Carolina Candidate Challenges Procedures Guide,
3. Invoices