



# Choctaw Nation Election Board

## MEETING MINUTES

The Election Board met on January 13, 2021 at 1:04 pm in the Chukash Hlampko (Strong Heart) Conference Room #1161 at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Headquarters Building in Durant, Oklahoma.

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairperson, Jane Parent.

Secretary, Candace Perkins, called the roll and the following individuals were present:

Virginia Kay Green (Absent) Jane Parent, Acting Chairperson

Candace Perkins, Secretary Judy Ogle (Absent)

Jennifer Johnson-Williams, Secretary Alternate Kitty Halcomb, Acting Member

Three (3) voting members of the Board answered roll call – a quorum was established.

Invited guest(s) in attendance: Graham A. Kovash, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Technology Training & Development Analyst.

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## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*The Meeting Minutes from the January 15, 2020 Regular Meeting were provided for review to all Board Members and Alternates prior to this meeting.*

Acting Chairperson Parent called for Approval of Minutes.

Secretary Perkins made a Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from the January 15, 2020 Regular Meeting. – Seconded by Acting Member Halcomb.

Acting Chairperson Parent called for voice vote; **MOTION PASSED.**

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## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Acting Chairperson Parent gave the floor to Secretary Perkins for an update on the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance. As of January 6, 2021, the recommendations provided after the Tribal



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Election 2019 are pending a final review with Burrage and Associates. Once reviewed, those recommendations will be provided to CNO Tribal Council.

There were two minor edits suggested by Chance Rabon, Burrage and Associates, with no objections voiced by Glenn Coffee and Associates or by Secretary Perkins on November 12, 2020. Those edits were:

- Article XIII, Section 5(c) – Election Board will be able to publish the reprimand every 30 days for a period of time not to exceed 12 months or until such time as the time is paid.
- Article XIX, Section 2 – Breaking out petitions for irregularities or fraud into two separate paragraphs for clarity.

During open discussion the following point(s) were made:

- Secretary Perkins advised the Board that any revisions to the Election Ordinance would need to happen before March so that there would be enough time to distribute any new information. If the Election Ordinance is not present on the Tribal Council agenda before March, then the Board will need to hold its recommendations until after the 2021 tribal election.

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Prior to the Secretary's Report, Graham A. Kovash was invited to enter and train the Board how to utilize telework resources, Microsoft TEAMS and Cisco WebEx. These tools will be utilized for virtual meetings as necessary. After his training, Graham was excused so that the meeting could continue.

- A paper copy of instructions for Microsoft TEAMS was distributed to the Board. Cisco WebEx instructions will be provided on a later date.

Acting Chairperson Parent called for the Secretary's Report.

Secretary Perkins provided the following information to the Board:

- Financial Updates including:
  - An overall financial snapshot of FY21 operating expenses for cost center.
- Operational Updates including:
  - An overview of operational updates for the Election Board:



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- The Board has a tentative hold on the Ceremonial Courtroom at the CNO Judicial Building from July 7, 2021 through August 14, 2021. This area would be used as the ballot tabulation location. Date range was confirmed on August 11, 2020.
- The Board has a tentative hold on the CNO Ibaichvffa (Membership) Conference Room from April 1, 2021 through August 14, 2021. This area would be used as the Election Board office.
- Secretary Perkins met with Casey D. Davis, who will serve as the Board's point of contact for CNO Marketing and Communications. He will help facilitate the distribution of public information on behalf of the Election Board.
  - A paper copy of the Election Communications Timeline was provided to the Board.
- An overview of current activities that are ongoing with the CNO Voter Registration (VR) Department:
  - VR released its annual mail drive on January 4, 2021 to 86,715 tribal members of voting age that have not updated or registered to vote.
  - CNO IT Developers and VR have started working with Automated Election Services on improvements to the Voter Registration API used during Same Day Registration.

Secretary Perkins led the open discussion regarding the following:

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board needs to begin generating ideas to accommodate safety guidelines issued by CNO. The Board should be aware that guidelines have the potential to change and the Board will need to adapt as necessary.
  - The potential to live stream events to reduce the number of people in a room.
  - Secretary Perkins will speak with CNO Judicial to determine if they have additional guidelines in place that the Board should recognize.

VR purchased additional laptops for Board's use if needed by members/alternates. To utilize CNO property, there are additional policies and procedures that the Board will need to recognize.

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## NEW BUSINESS

Acting Chairperson Parent called for New Business.

*All documents and materials related to the following motions were provided for review to all Board Members and Alternates prior to this meeting.*

Secretary Perkins made a Motion to Approve the Election Board Meeting Schedule for 2021. – Motion seconded by Acting Member Halcomb.

Acting Chairperson Parent called for voice vote; **MOTION PASSED.**



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Secretary Perkins made a Motion to Approve the Election Board Public Notice: "General Election Calendar" for immediate distribution to internal and external media sources. – Motion seconded by Acting Member Halcomb.

Acting Chairperson Parent called for voice vote; **MOTION PASSED.**

Acting Chairperson Parent made a Motion to Approve the "Candidate Checklist for Filing Packet" Version 2 for use during the 2021 election cycle. – Motion seconded by Acting Member Halcomb.

Acting Chairperson Parent called for voice vote; **MOTION PASSED.**

Secretary Perkins made a Motion to Approve the "Candidate Statement of Confidentiality" Version 2 for use during the 2021 election cycle. – Motion seconded by Acting Chairperson Parent.

Acting Chairperson Parent called for voice vote; **MOTION PASSED.**

Secretary Perkins made a Motion to Accept the Resignation Letter of Election Board Alternate, Judy Ogle. – Motion seconded by Acting Chairperson Parent.

Acting Chairperson Parent called for voice vote; **MOTION PASSED.**

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## ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chairperson Parent made a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting. – Seconded by Secretary Perkins.

Acting Chairperson Parent called for voice vote; **MOTION PASSED.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

### Certification of Meeting Minutes:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Candace Perkins".

Candace Perkins  
Secretary

A handwritten note in blue ink that reads "Approved 4-7-2021".