

MOTION:

May 7, 2013
Regular Meeting
Ord. No. 13-

SECOND:

RE: APPROVE THE RELOCATION OF THE LODGE POLLING PLACE AT 14602 MINNIEVILLE ROAD IN WOODBRIDGE TO THE HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH, 14510 SPRIGGS ROAD, WOODBRIDGE; AND THE RELOCATION OF PACE WEST POLLING PLACE AT 14550 JOHN MARSHALL HIGHWAY IN HAYMARKET TO THE HAYMARKET TOWN HALL, 15000 WASHINGTON STREET, HAYMARKET; AND RENAME THESE VOTING PRECINCTS AS SPRIGGS PRECINCT AND HAYMARKET PRECINCT

ACTION:

WHEREAS, Prince William County redistricted its magisterial districts, including the designation of voting precincts, polling places and precinct names in 2011 using population data from the 2010 United States Census; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William County redistricting plan was approved by the U. S. Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, voting facilities located at the Woodbridge Elks Lodge and the former Pace West School are no longer readily available for continued use as voting locations; and

WHEREAS, in order to improve efficiency, effectiveness and clarity in upcoming elections, the Prince William County Electoral Board has made recommendations to relocate two polling places and to rename these polling places; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William County Electoral Board does recommend that the Lodge polling place be relocated to the Heritage Baptist Church (14510 Spriggs Road, Woodbridge) and be renamed the Spriggs Precinct; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William County Electoral Board does recommend that the Pace West polling place be relocated to the Haymarket Town Hall (15000 Washington Street, Haymarket) and be renamed the Haymarket Precinct; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William County Electoral Board has worked with members of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors on these proposed changes; and

WHEREAS, the owners and/or proprietors of the newly-proposed polling places graciously welcome the use of their facilities; and

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WHEREAS, the one-time cost of approximately \$3,700 may be accounted for in the FY2013 Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors voted on April 16, 2013, by Resolution No. 13-238 to authorize a public hearing regarding the relocation of the Lodge polling place at 14602 Minnieville Road in Woodbridge to the Heritage Baptist Church, 14510 Spriggs Road, Woodbridge; and the relocation of the Pace West polling place at 14550 John Marshall Highway in Haymarket to the Haymarket Town Hall, 15000 Washington Street, Haymarket; and to rename these voting precincts Spriggs Precinct and Haymarket Precinct; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with §24.2-306, *Virginia Code Annotated*, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors published the proposal to make changes to the Lodge and Pace West polling places in a newspaper having general circulation in the County; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing has been duly advertised for this purpose and was conducted on May 7, 2013, and all interested citizens were heard; and

WHEREAS, any changes to current polling places and precinct names or establishment of new sites must occur by County ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby approve the relocation of the Lodge polling place from 14602 Minnieville Road in Woodbridge to the Heritage Baptist Church, 14510 Spriggs Road, Woodbridge; and the relocation of Pace West polling place from 14550 John Marshall Highway to the Haymarket Town Hall, 15000 Washington Street, Haymarket; and rename these voting precincts as Spriggs Precinct and Haymarket Precinct, respectively;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors directs County staff to advertise the changes to the Lodge and Pace West polling places in a newspaper having general circulation in the County.

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Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

For Further Information:

Administrative Manager of Elections

ATTEST: _____
Clerk to the Board



Melissa S. Peacor
County Executive

COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT


1 County Complex Court, Prince William, VA 22192-9201
(703) 792-6600 Metro 631-1703 FAX: (703) 792-7484

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April 17, 2013

TO: Board of County Supervisors

FROM: Diana C. Dutton, Administrative Manager of Elections
Voter Registration and Elections 

THRU: Melissa Peacor
County Executive

RE: Relocate Lodge Polling Place at 14602 Minnieville Road in Woodbridge to the Heritage Baptist Church at 14510 Spriggs Road in Woodbridge; and Relocate Pace West polling place at 14550 John Marshall Highway in Haymarket to the Haymarket Town Hall at 15000 Washington Street in Haymarket; and Rename These Voting Precincts as Spriggs Precinct and Haymarket Precinct

I. Background in chronological order is as follows:

- A. 2011 Redistricting – The Board of County Supervisors redistricted Prince William County magisterial districts in 2011 using population data from the 2010 U. S. Census. The determination of precinct boundaries, polling places and precinct names was part of the redistricting process. The redistricting plan was submitted to and approved by the U. S. Department of Justice.
- B. Lodge Precinct – The Lodge Precinct polling location has been the Woodbridge Elks Lodge at 14602 Minnieville Road in Woodbridge. Following the November 6, 2012 Presidential Election, the Electoral Board received a number of complaints from the leadership of the Lodge. The Woodbridge Elks Lodge facility and parking are no longer adequate for the number of voters in the precinct.
- C. Pace West Precinct – The Prince William County Board is selling the building that previously housed the Pace West School. Therefore, it will no longer be available to serve as a polling place.

II. Current Situation is as follows:

- A. Public Hearing Authorization – The Board authorized a public hearing to consider the relocation of two polling places and the renaming of these voting precincts on April 16, 2013, by Res. No. 13-238.
- B. Public Hearing Advertisement – The public hearing was advertised in the Prince William Times, a newspaper of general circulation, each week for two consecutive weeks, starting April 24.
- C. Proposed Re-locations – The Electoral Board proposes the following formal action at the Public Hearing:

<u>Current Polling Place</u>	<u>Proposed Polling Place</u>	<u>Name Change</u>
Woodbridge Elks Lodge 14602 Minnieville Rd Woodbridge	Heritage Baptist Church 14510 Spriggs Road Woodbridge	Spriggs Precinct
Pace West School 14550 John Marshall Hwy Haymarket	Haymarket Town Hall 15000 Washington St Haymarket	Haymarket Precinct

- D. Board Action Requested – The Board is requested to approve the relocation of Lodge polling place from 14602 Minnieville Road in Woodbridge to the Heritage Baptist Church at 14510 Spriggs Road in Woodbridge; and the relocation of Pace West polling place from 14550 John Marshall Highway in Haymarket to the Haymarket Town Hall at 15000 Washington Street in Haymarket; and to rename these voting precincts as Spriggs Precinct and Haymarket Precinct, respectively.

III. Issues in order of importance are

- A. Timing – When must the relocation of polling places and renaming of the two voting precincts occur?
- B. Legal – Does the Board have the authority to establish voting precincts and polling places?
- C. Fiscal – What are the fiscal impacts of relocating and renaming these voting places and voting precincts?

- D. Service Level/Policy Impacts – What service levels or policy impacts are affected by the relocation and renaming of the two polling places?

IV. Alternatives in order of feasibility are:

- A. Approve the relocation of Lodge polling place from 14602 Minnieville Road in Woodbridge to the Heritage Baptist Church at 14510 Spriggs Road in Woodbridge; and the relocation of Pace West polling place from 14550 John Marshall Highway in Haymarket to the Haymarket Town Hall at 15000 Washington Street in Haymarket; and to rename these voting precincts as Spriggs Precinct and Haymarket Precinct, respectively.

1. Timing – Approval on May 7, 2013, will allow notification to the State Board of Elections in time for the changes to be incorporated into the state database of voters in order that new voter cards may be mailed to all affected voters at least 15 days before the June 11 Primary Election, as required by §24.2-306B of the *Code of Virginia*.
2. Legal – Virginia *Code* §24.2-307 grants the Board of County Supervisors authority to establish by ordinance as many precincts and polling locations as the Board deems necessary. Preclearance under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is no longer required before the changes can become effective, because the County applied for and received a “bailout” from the preclearance requirements.
3. Fiscal – Relocating the polling places and renaming the two voting precincts will not cause an increased cost in each election *per se* because the elections will merely be held in different buildings than previously established. However, the voters will have to be notified of these changes through the mailing of new voter cards. The estimated cost of the mailing for the new Spriggs Precinct is \$1,966; and the estimated cost for the new Haymarket Precinct is \$1,682. The total fiscal impact is estimated to be \$3,648 to be expended from the existing FY13 budget.
4. Service Levels/Policy Impact – Relocating the voting locations and renaming the existing precincts will improve voting services and provide better voting facilities for the voters for future elections.

B. Take No Action

1. Timing – If no action is taken, the polling places will not be relocated in time for the June 11 Primary Election.
2. Legal – If these new locations are not approved, it would be necessary to attempt to use the existing facilities or different locations. It is unlikely that new locations can be identified, approved and submitted to the State Board of Elections in time for the June 11 Primary Election.
3. Fiscal – If the ordinance is not approved and no action is taken, it would be necessary to renegotiate for continued use of the existing facilities. There may be a fiscal impact if negotiations led to paying for the use of a facility. The leadership at the Elks Lodge does not want elections held there and the ownership of the old Pace West School is uncertain, making negotiation for these sites difficult. If the renegotiation is unsuccessful, by *Virginia Code* the County is still required to hold the June 11 Primary Election for those voters assigned to the Lodge and Pace West Precincts. The County would have to find other polling locations for these precincts.
4. Service Levels/Policy Impact – Without approval of these precinct changes, it would be necessary to negotiate with the property owners for continued use of the existing polling locations. If these negotiations are successful, the level of service to voters at the Woodbridge Elks Lodge will continue to be inadequate due to the number of voters and the capacity of the facility. If negotiations are not successful, new facilities will have to be located.

V. Recommendation is that the Board of County Supervisors concur with Alternative A and approve the attached ordinance.