

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF HENRY

The Henry County Board of Elections and Registration held a Regular Public Meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5th, 2018 in the Conference Room, of the Elections and Registration Building, 40 Atlanta Street, McDonough, Georgia. Notice of this meeting was posted in the entrance foyer of the Elections and Registration Building. The Daily Herald was notified of this meeting. Those present were:

Mildred Schmelz, Chair and Democratic Party Appointee

Dan Richardson, Vice-Chair and Republican Party Appointee

Jon Kirkpatrick, Democratic Party Appointee

Andy Callaway, Republican Party Appointee

Arch Brown, Board of Commissioners Appointee

Also attending was: Tina Lunsford, Elections and Registration Supervisor, Grayson Davis.

Call to Order.

Chair Schmelz called the meeting to order.

Acceptance of the Agenda.

Chair Schmelz called for an acceptance of the Agenda. Vice Chair Richardson requested for the agenda to be amended to include the November minutes. Vice Chair Richardson made the motion to accept the agenda as amended; Board Member Kirkpatrick seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Approval of the November minutes.

Chair Schmelz called for a motion to hold the November minutes in abeyance until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Vice Chair Richardson motioned for the

reading and acceptance of the November minutes to be held in abeyance until the next scheduled meeting; Board Member Callaway seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Board discussion on December 5, 2018 General Runoff Election.

The Director discussed some of the issues that happened on Election Day. These included voters attempting to vote at the office, schools refusing to let the poll manager set up until 7 p.m., a school attempting to have the election held in a breezeway and parking at the schools. The Director stated that the issues with the schools were resolved and that we won't experience them again per the Board's previous vote to relocate polling locations out of the schools.

Board Member Kirkpatrick asked for an update on the status of leaving the schools. The Director explained that we are currently waiting to hear back from one Church and that all the other polling locations are finalized. The Board requested clarification on the procedures regarding the polling locations changing. The Director explained that the next steps included; posting a notice in the legal organ, posting a notice on the county website, posting a notice on the department's Facebook, obtaining approval for locations located outside the precinct and the Board's vote during the February meeting. The Board and the Director discussed the changes, focusing on the following topics; distance from the previous polling location, deciding not to use the county administration building, minimizing voter confusion by moving polling locations further apart and increased budget due to the future increase in payments to the churches.

The Board also discussed the topics regarding the transportation of voting units, units failing due to card reader errors and issues with paper ballots. Chair Schmelz requested a list of common complaints and issues regarding the voting units to be presented during the next meeting.

Board discussion and vote on 2019 Public Meeting Notice.

The Director passed out the proposed public meeting notice to the Board. Vice Chair Richardson proposed amending the notice to change the September meeting date to the eleventh and updating the bottom note to reflect the change. Chair Schmelz called for a motion. Vice Chair Richardson made the motion to accept

2019 Public Meeting Notice for the Henry County Board of Elections and Registrations as amended; Board Member Callaway seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Supervisor Report

Board Member Brown inquired about the Absentee by Mail ballots. The Director explained that the ballots had to be post marked by the 4th, but they have until Friday the 7th to be delivered to the office.

The Director presented the status of the budget. She stated that there are multiple accounts that are reflecting a negative balance and that after the bills for the November and December Elections it is expected to be approximately 23,000 in the negative. She explained that Angi Sorrow will be working with us to transfer money from different accounts to cover the negative. The Board discussed and decided to make a note of the budget for future meeting with the Board of Commissioners.

Old Business

Board Member Kirkpatrick requested an update on the City of Stockbridge Lawsuits. The Director explained that there has been no official update regarding the lawsuit. She has heard rumors that the City might dismiss the lawsuit, but the County Attorney will let the Board know when he receives something.

Board Member Kirkpatrick requested an update regarding poll worker pay. The Director stated that the poll workers will be paid for both the November and December elections combined. She stated that there was a 3 day time frame to enter the payroll and there wasn't enough time in November. She informed the Board that moving forward, the County will no longer be doing paper checks. Poll workers will have to be paid by direct deposit or by a card.

Chair Schmelz mentioned improving voter education in regards to the 2018-2019 Board priorities list. She stated that she would like for the members of the Board of Elections to start doing presentations and answer questions from citizens to promote voter education. She also stated that she would like for the Board and office to participate in the next Citizen Academy. The Board discussed methods of improving voter education and typical questions that are asked. The methods discussed included presentations, visiting locations and mock elections for schools.

New Business

The Director stated that she will be taking annual leave before the New Year and won't be in the office often for the next few weeks.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Announcement – Next board meeting on January 9th, 2019

Chair Schmelz announced the date and location of the next meeting.

Adjournment

Board Member Callaway made motion to adjourn; Board Member Kirkpatrick seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.