

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, January 13, 2021, held on Zoom. Notice of this meeting was posted in the entrance foyer of the Elections and Registration Building and on the County website. The Daily Herald was notified of this meeting. Those present were:

Donna McBride, Chair and Democratic Party Appointee

Andy Callaway, Vice Chair and Republican Party Appointee

Arch Brown, Board of Commissioners Appointee (Audio only)

Donna Crumbley, Republican Party Appointee

Mildred Schmelz, Democratic Party Appointee

Also in attendance: Director Ameika Pitts, Terrika Davis, Ken Pollock, Brook Schreiner, and Will White.

I. Call to Order

Chair McBride called the meeting to order.

II. Acceptance of the Agenda

Board Member Schmelz made the motion to accept the agenda with the following revisions: under 'Acceptance of Board Minutes', add 'A) Regular Meeting- 12/9/2020, 'B) Special Call Meeting- 12/22/2020, and 'C) January Special- 1/4/2021, under 'New Business' correct the spelling of Counselman to Councilman, and add 'Executive Session' after 'Public Comments'. Vice Chair Callaway seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

III. Acceptance of the December Minutes

- A. Vice Chair Callaway motioned to accept the minutes from December 9, 2020 with the following revisions: under 'Acceptance of Agenda, Board Member Schmelz made the motion to accept agenda, and under 'Old Business' Board Member Schmelz' comment; Board Member Schmelz seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.
- B. Board Member Schmelz motioned to accept the minutes from December 22, 2020 with the following revisions: change the date from December 22, 2020 in the very first paragraph, under 'Acceptance of Agenda, the vote did pass to accept agenda, and under 'February elections', fix the grammatical errors in the last sentence ; Vice Chair Callaway seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.
- C. Chair McBride made the motion to accept the Special Call meeting minutes from January 4, 2021 with the following revisions: under 'Challenged Votes', the spelling of sufficient needed to be corrected; Board Member Crumbley seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

IV. Old Business

- A. Chair McBride stated that the Board Members would be receiving an email of the proposed diagram of the new facility and requested that each Board Member look of the diagram. Board Member Schmelz said stated that she is interested in the security of the staff, voters and Board Members and wanted to know if metal detectors could be installed. Director Pitts stated that there are security cameras, and stated she will add the metal detectors into the layout to see if it possible to get. Board Member Schmelz asked if metal detectors couldn't be provided, could Director Pitts have discussions with the Sheriff's Department so that a Deputy may be at the office during board meetings. Director Pitts said yes. The Board discussed further.
- B. Director Pitts stated that the items that was originally requested on the itemized list would still be purchased with general funding. She continued stating that the Financial Department is assisting with the final report that will be turned into CTCL by January 31, 2021. Director Pitts stated that the

Financial Department recommended for the grant funding to be used for payroll so the grant funding would be used entirely. Board Member Crumbley asked if no funds were used from the CTCL grant. Director Pitts stated that the funds were available to be used between June and December 2020. Board Member Crumbley asked how much was spent on payroll. Director Pitts stated \$787,780.41. The Board discussed further. Board Member Schmelz asked if all the grant funding was spent on poll workers and not permanent or temporary staff. Director Pitts stated that one of the qualified reimbursable would have to be temporary staffing or hazard pay, which is what the office was going to do to be able to use the funding in its entirety. She continued stating that the Financial Director recommended using the funding on payroll. Director Pitts stated that once the Financial Department finished the final report, she would share it with the Board Members.

V. Director Report

- A. Director Pitts stated the election went well. She stated that on Election Day, there were 25,859 voters, for Advanced Voting there were 62,165, Absentee by Mail there were 21,275, and Provisionals there were 222. Board Member Schmelz asked Director Pitts to address the COVID-19 cases. Director Pitts stated that the office did have some COVID-19 positive tests, and every precaution were taken from Disinfecting to cleaning the buildings. Board Member Schmelz asked if the County has policy and procedure in place for COVID- 19. Director Pitts said yes, they have done a recent update of it and she will forward this information to the Board Members. Board Member Crumbley asked how many of the permanent personnel at the main office has tested positive. Director Pitts said three.

VI. New Business

- A. Chair McBride spoke of the early voting schedule for the February 9, 2021 election. Board Member Schmelz stated that the wording in the paragraph was not sufficient. Chair McBride stated to get with Director Pitts after the Board Meeting. Board Member Crumbley made the motion to accept the early voting schedule for the February 9, 2021 election; Vice Chair Callaway seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

- B. Chair McBride spoke of the early voting schedule for the March 16, 2021 election. Board Member Schmelz said that the language was insufficient. Board Member Schmelz made the motion to accept the early voting schedule for the March 16, 2021 election, Board Member Crumbley seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.
- 1) Chair McBride asked Attorney White if the Board could hold a special meeting since the Board Members have not had enough time to look over it. Attorney White said if possible, it really needed to be done during this meeting. Brook shared the document through screen share via Zoom. The Board discussed further. Chair McBride accepted the resolution from the Henry County Board of Education Attorney's White and Pollok for this resolution to be placed on the ballot in the March election, Board Member Brown seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.
 - 2) Chair McBride stated that a Locust Grove Councilman position would be on the ballot for the City of Locust Grove. Board Member Schmelz asked is this a locust Grove ESPLOST. Chair McBride stated that this is to fill Councilman Gardner's position.
- C. Brook stated that she received an email from the Wesley Lakes precinct (Griffin First Assembly) stating that they no longer want to be a polling location. She continued stating that staff is working with them to see if they could do the March election since it was short notice to find a new location, and they stated at 11:00 AM today that they will do the March election. Chair McBride asked if the office had a backup plan. Brook stated that she would get with the School Board just in case, and added that staff is talking to other churches in the area too possibly use their facilities.

VII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VIII. Executive Session

Board Member Crumbley withdrew from going into executive session since Board Member Schmelz spoke of the COVID-19 cases in a previous section.

IX. Board Member Comments

The Board Members made their comments. Board Member Crumbley said that the office did not send out the Absentee Ballot applications to all voters in Henry County that the Board previously voted on and approved to do. Chair McBride made Board Member Crumbley aware that this is only the time for Board Members to make closing remarks.

X. Announcement of next meeting

Chair McBride announced that the next meeting will be February 3, 2021.

XI. Adjournment

Vice Chair Callaway made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chair Callaway also seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.