

## 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in the Conference Room, of the Elections and Registrations 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:

Dan Richardson, Chair and Republican Party Appointee

Donna McBride, Vice Chair and Democratic Party Appointee

Arch Brown, Board of Commissioners Appointee

Andy Callaway, Republican Party Appointee

Mildred Schmelz, Democratic Party Appointee

Also attending was: Grayson Davis, Terrika Davis, Senior Judge McGarity, Brook Schreiner, and Patrick Jaugstetter, County Attorney.

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order.

#### **II. Acceptance of the Agenda**

Chair Richardson requested to amend the agenda to add the resolution and conference update to section V. Old Business. Board Member Brown made the motion to accept the changes; Board Member Callaway seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

### **III. Approval of the December minutes**

Chair Richardson called for the acceptance of the December minutes. Board Member Schmelz requested edits of the December minutes. Board Member Schmelz made the motion to accept the minutes as amended; Vice Chair McBride seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

### **IV. Judge McGarity to update Board on replacing the Director**

Judge McGarity stated that he has the applications of people that applied for the position. Patrick noted that the law requires the position to be filled by appointment from the Chief Judge of the Superior Court. He stated that there were 14 applications for the position and elaborated on the applicants experience. After some discussion, Sr. Judge McGarity agreed to release the applications to Board Members in an attempt to capture the Board's voice in appointing the Director. County Attorney Jaugsetter stated he would redact personal information before emailing them out. The Board discussed further. Chair Richardson thanked Sr. Judge McGarity and Patrick for coming to the meeting.

### **V. Old Business**

- A. Grayson updated the Board on the pick-up of the old voting equipment and the delivery of the new voting equipment. Chair Richardson recommended contacting the liaison to get a time scheduled. Grayson stated that the courtrooms had been renovated to accommodate the storage of the new equipment. He noted that the deadline for the modular unit is the end of January. Grayson stated there would be an increase in the number of trucks needed to transport the equipment to the polling locations. The Board discussed the matter, and Chair Richardson recommended contacting Penske and letting them know that more trucks will be needed.
- B. Chair Richardson spoke of the resolution and presented a draft copy to the Board for them to look over and make any necessary changes.

- C. Board Member Schmelz provided an update from the Georgia Association of Voter Registration and Election Officials Conference and stated that there are a lot of amendments to the Election Code; therefore, it is imperative to get a Director that can interpret and understand the new amendments. She said that she had the amendments and that she would make copies for the Board Members. She went on to mention that the state has a grant for the counties for the new equipment. Board Member Schmelz then stated that the State would match 3% for Cyber Security improvements. She stressed that the funds are limited, and the office should act as soon as possible. Chair Richardson requested that Vice Chair McBride and him-self receive the information about the grant. Vice Chair McBride stated that the conference was very informative and that it covered a lot of information. Grayson said he found the presentations on the challenges with the new equipment useful.

## **VI. New Business**

- A. Grayson presented six schedules for the early voting locations for the Board to make their selection. He said that the hours of operation and the number of locations vary between schedules. The Board discussed further, and Vice Chair McBride made the motion to add J.P. Moseley as an early voting location for the March Election; Board Member Schmelz seconded. The motion carried 4-1-0, with Chair Richardson voting against the motion. The Board discussed the different schedules. Board Member Brown made the motion to use schedule five for early voting during the March 2020 Election; Vice Chair McBride seconded. The motion carried 3-0-2, with Chair Richardson and Board Member Callaway abstaining.

## **VII. Supervisor Report**

- A. Grayson presented a slide from the Board of Commissioners presentation. He stated the numbers of transfers, registrations, and the number of people cancelled due to no activity. He noted that the Board of Commissioners have an agreement with the City of Locust Grove to host their elections, but the agreement expires at the end of January, 2020. He said if the agreement is not renewed, then the Board of Election will no

longer facilitate their elections. Grayson mentioned that he reached out to the city clerk to inform her of the agreement, but has not heard back from her yet. He also stated that if the City of Locust Grove wants to continue the agreement, then they will have to pass a resolution stating so and present it to the Board of Commissioners. The Board discussed further and requested that he contact the Mayor.

- B. Grayson presented a document of all of the upcoming voting equipment demonstrations. Chair Richardson asked for the event days to be put on the Henry County Elections and Registration Facebook page. Grayson stated the Board Members are welcome to join the demonstrations.
- C. Vice Chair McBride mentioned that she received an email from a member of Delta Sigma Theta asking for the Board of Elections to come out to a function at Dutchtown Middle School and do a demonstration of the equipment.
- D. Grayson spoke of the Board of Commissioners presentation that he did in December 2019. He said that he would send out an email with the presentation to the Board Members. The Board Members congratulated Grayson on his presentation.
- E. Grayson stated that qualifying would be March 2, 2020 to March 6, 2020. Grayson stated that he is unsure if there is room in the office for the parties to host qualifying. He continued stating that if the office does get the modular unit, then there will be enough space. The Board discussed further and concluded to contact each party and let them know of the spacing issue and to have another place in mind.

## **VIII. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **IX. Board Members closing remarks**

Board Member Brown made the motion to enter executive session; Board Member Callaway seconded. The motion carried 4-1-0, with Board Member Schmelz voting against. Chair Richardson asked Grayson to excuse himself from

the meeting as discussion would pertain to the Interim Director's role. Board Member Brown made the motion to exit the executive session; Board Member Callaway seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

**X. Chair closing remarks**

Chair Richardson made his closing remarks.

**XI. Announcement- Next board meeting on February 5, 2020**

Chair Richardson announced that the next meeting would be February 5, 2020.

**XII. Adjournment**

Vice Chair McBride motioned to adjourn the meeting; Board Member Callaway seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.