

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, May 2, 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:

Arch Brown, Chairman and Board of Commissioners Appointee
Mildred Schmelz, Vice-Chairman and Democratic Party Appointee
Andy Callaway, Republican Party Appointee
John Kirkpatrick, Democratic Party Appointee
Dan Richardson, Republican Party Appointee

Also attending was: Tina Lunsford, Elections and Registration Supervisor; Brook Schreiner; Pete Peterson, Republican Party Chairman; Casey Carroll; and Harold Thibodeaux.

Call to Order:

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order.

Acceptance of the Agenda

Chairman Brown called for an acceptance of the Agenda. Board Member Callaway made the motion to accept the agenda; Board Member Schmelz seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Approval of April minutes

Chairman Brown called for acceptance of the April minutes. Board Member Richardson made the motion to approve the minutes; Board Member Schmelz seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Update Board on early voting statistics

Tina passed out handouts with the turnout for the previous election and with the current voter turnout for the May Primary. It was noted that there have been 200

more voters. Board Member Kirkpatrick asked if the increase was due to the increase in population. Tina stated that it's mostly the same voters from 2014 and recent transfers to Henry County that actively vote. Board Member Richardson asked about any returned absentee ballot. Tina stated that she will get them a report with the updated numbers. She stated that she noticed the number decreasing with the convenience of early voting. Chairman Brown asked if there was any trend with the other early voting locations. Tina stated that the main office has the most, followed by Stockbridge, then Fairview and Hampton last. Chairman Brown asked if there were any complaints with not opening Locust Grove. Tina stated that there had been no complaints.

Discussion regarding Stockbridge early voting satellite office

Tina stated that staff visited the Stockbridge Municipal Court building, which will be the new early voting location. She stated that there are renovations being done on the lower level, so the Primary we will be voting on the top floor. Handicap parking will be located on the side of the building. There is a walking path to the City Hall parking where the majority of voters will park. Board Member Kirkpatrick asked about accessibility issues. Tina stated that there was not a button to open the doors on the top but there is one down stairs. After the renovations are completed, Tina stated she plans to ask for the board to go and look at the location and address any concerns. She stated that the city has stated they will schedule court around election dates. Board Member Callaway and Board Member Schmelz both said it is a very nice building. Board Member Schmelz stated that she is concerned with the traffic on North Henry Blvd.

Board discussion regarding security system for the building

Tina stated that the office only received one quote back and it was from Atlanta Digital Security for the installation of an alarm monitoring system. It will come with a glass break monitor for the server room and local monitoring for \$29.95 a month. Board Member Schmelz stated that she is concerned about the approval of the contract and going before the administration where it would be called for a special meeting. Tina stated that since it is under \$1,000 it does not have to go before the BOC for approval. Board Member Richardson asked for clarification that this was sent out to multiple companies but only this one responded back. Tina stated yes. Board Member Kirkpatrick and Board Member Callaway questioned where the

monitoring location is located. Tina informed them that it is off the square and this company does the Administration building's monitoring as well. The company also did the original wiring for this building as well. Board Member Richardson motioned to accept the bid from Atlanta Digital Security for \$30 a month to replace the security system here at the election's office; Board member Callaway seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Update Board on social media status for the office

Tina stated that the Elections office now has a Facebook page. She is waiting for the board's approval to make the page public. She provided the members a list of the current filtered words. The office did not remove words that would potentially be associated with future referendums. She stated that because of a pending lawsuit with the police department we cannot restrict comments that are posted to Facebook so the office will have to be constantly updating the filters. The office reached out to bigger counties and they do not have a Facebook page. Clayton County does but it is run by the County government and not the department. Rockdale and Paulding County also have a Facebook page. Tina showed board members the page. It only has the early voting schedule currently. Board Member Schmelz asked about letting the county run the page and not the department. Tina stated that the communications department does not have enough staff to run every department's page. Board Member Richardson asked if the county has a policy. Tina stated that the Board of Commissioners adopted a Facebook policy a few months ago. This office will monitor the page every day and add more filters as needed and that we cannot delete someone's comment due to freedom of speech. Board Member Richardson and Board Member Schmelz requested a copy of the county's Facebook page which can be found on the County's website. Tina stated that when she talked to Paulding County they have not had issues with it but they did say the page needs to be closely monitored. Board Member Richardson asked if the page is live. Tina stated that it won't be until the board's approval. Board Member Schmelz questioned if the board already took a vote on it. Brook stated that she can go back in the minutes but we were waiting for the approval of Henry County Board of Commissioners Facebook policy. Now that it has been passed Tina is bringing it back before the board. Board Member Schmelz motioned that the Elections office move forward to create a Facebook page encompassing the filters and privacy provided by Facebook and also encompassing Henry County Board of Commissioners policy regarding the creation

of the Facebook page. Board Member Kirkpatrick seconded. Board Member Richardson stated that he is in favor but wants to read the policy first for the board members to be comfortable with moving forward. Board Member Schmelz stated we can always take the page down at any time. Board Member Kirkpatrick agreed and stated that the page can always be amended as needed. The motion carried 4-1-0, with Board Member Richardson opposed.

Board discussion regarding security system for the building

Homeland security has offered to go around to counties to do a free security assessment of election facilities. Once we reach out to them the assessment is usually done in three – four weeks. Board Member Richardson informed the board that they will come out and do an extensive assessment of the security of the employees and equipment. Board Member Callaway agrees that the office needs to be a part of this with all the discussions on security. Board Member Schmelz thinks this will be great to have done with dealing with the Board of Commissioners about the concerns and issues with the current building. The county has to provide us with a building and maybe this will get them to get us out of the current building and into something appropriate. Board Member Richardson stated that he thinks it is a great idea and something the board should consider. It will bring some attention and refocus on things we need. We also need to balance it with time as well with the election year. There is another week or so before the governor decides to sign the Eagle landing's bill and that will put additional work on the staff. Board Member Richardson is concerned with the time of such of an assessment. Board Member Schmelz asked Tina her thoughts on the matter. Tina stated that the assessment and report is for our knowledge. It does not mean we need to stop what the office is doing and implement their suggestions. She suggests waiting until after we get the security system in place. She stated that she is concerned with the passing of the Eagles Landing legislation which will put a lot of work on the office. The City of McDonough as well did an annex all the way to Highway 155 so we will have to move those voters into their correct precinct lines and combos as well. Board Member Schmelz asked when will be the best time to do the assessment. Tina stated that the end of December or beginning of January, after the election cycle. Chainman Brown suggested that the assessment be done at Tina's discretion. Board Member Schmelz would like for a motion to be presented on this as well. Board Member Richardson motioned to move forward to contact Home Land Security to come out

and conduct a security assessment at a time that is determined by the Election Supervisor. Board Member Callaway seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Update Board on election supervisor term expiring June 30, 2018

Tina stated that her term is expiring June 30, 2018. Board member Schmelz would like to see if the term could be changed from two years to four years. Tina stated to do that the term would end right before a run off in the middle of an election cycle. She suggested to not do it in the middle of an election cycle. Tina gave a history on the combining of the boards and the setup of the Election Supervisor terms. It has to be done when the grand jury meets then forwarded to the Superior Court Judge. Board Member Schmelz stated that she would like to see the process change in the future since what Henry County does is so unique and not like other counties. Chairman Brown stated that he would like a motion to be made for the board to submit Tina's name to the Grand Jury for another two year term and in the next year get with the county attorney about changing the term and send it to the Board of Commissioners to be approved for legislation. Board Member Kirkpatrick made a motion that Board Member Schmelz will draft a letter a letter supporting Tina Lunsford to the District Attorney's office for the reappointment for another two year term. Board Member Schmelz seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0.

New Business

Board Member Richardson stated that at last meeting there was talk about setting up work sessions with the board and there were concerns with the bylaws. Line item 9.4 states at all meetings of the Henry County Board of Elections and Registration that the presence of at least three members shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is present, a majority of the votes shall determine any matter coming before the Board. There was hesitation by the board members on meeting for work sessions without it being a board meeting. The code states it is considered a meeting and a notice has to be given to the public as well as a notice of a special called meeting. The code supersedes the bylaws. Board Member Richardson stated we need to determine when the workshops will be in session so notices can be given. Board Member Schmelz asked what kind of session. Board Member Richardson stated that they are work sessions on the contingency plans and they can add security to it. When the Homeland Security assessment comes back the board needs to meet to read and discuss the findings. Board Member Schmelz asked if Board Member

Richardson is proposing the board meet in the next few months or after the elections. Board Member Richardson is proposing that the board act upon the motion in the last meeting and set up a date and time for workshop meetings. Board Member Schmelz proposes that in two months the board come back to a special meeting. Chairman Brown proposed that Board Member Richardson come back to the June meeting with a tentative agenda for the workshop meetings.

Public Comment

Mr. Harold Thibodeaux of Windsong Plantation stood. He stated that he has some concerns that he does not want to address at the moment until he completes more research. He asked if any board member represents the fourth district. Chairman Brown stated the board is made up of two democrats, two republicans, and an appointee from the Board of Commissioners. The board members introduced themselves and their party affiliation. Mr. Thibodeaux stated that it is a good thing for Citizens to attend and he has a lot of questions that have been answered today. Chairman Brown stated that if Mr. Thibodeaux would notify the board in advanced of any concerns we would get the issues on the agenda.

Adjournment

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