

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, November 11th, 2020, 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 (was present, but had technical difficulties)

Donna Crumbley, Republican Party Appointee

Mildred Schmelz, Democratic Party Appointee

Also in attendance: Director Ameika Pitts, Terrika Davis, and Brook Schreiner.

I. Call to Order

Chair McBride called the meeting to order.

II. Acceptance of the Agenda

Vice Chair Callaway made the motion to accept the agenda with the following revisions: add RLA audit to 'Director Report', and Executive Session after 'Public Comments'; Board Member Crumbley seconded. The motioned carried 4-0-0.

III. Acceptance of the October Minutes

Board Member Crumbley made the motion to accept the October minutes; Vice Chair Callaway seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

IV. Old Business

- A. Chair McBride thanked the Henry County Emergency team for the November 3rd Election, alongside Director Pitts for the reassurance. Board Member Schmelz mentioned that the Board Members were supposed to tour the facility, and asked if the Board Members would be able to. Director Pitts said yes, she would get with Don Ash to set up a tour and send out communications to the Board Members.
- B. Chair McBride mentioned that they, the Board, had previously voted on addition drop boxes and the vote ended up being 2-2-1, and stated that the State didn't provide anymore drop boxes. She continued stating that since the Elections office now has the grant funding, she wanted to bring this back to discuss the possibility of three additional drop boxes so that way each district will have a drop box. Board Member Schmelz said that it would have to be four additional drop boxes since there are five Commission Districts. Board Member Schmelz asked if the Board has had any input from Director Pitts on where the drop boxes would be placed. She also stated that the Board needs to have input in terms of the security of the drop boxes. Chair McBride mentioned that the City of Stockbridge has reached out to the police station to see if a drop box could be put there property and they agreed that it could be placed there. She also mentioned that in Hampton, possibly placing the drop box at the Fortson Library on across the way at the Senior Center. The Board discussed further. Board Member Schmelz made the motion to add four additional secure drop boxes, one in each Commission District, and do before December 31, 2020, Board Member Crumbley seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.
- C. Chair McBride said that the County will be meeting with Director Pitts and any Board Member who is interested in the design of the building. She continued stating to reach out to Director Pitts about the time and date of the meeting. Board Member Schmelz stated that she would like to have an

input regarding the design of building. Board Member Crumbley, Vice Chair Callaway and Chair McBride echoed Board Member Schmelz.

V. Director Report

- A. Director Pitts stated that she is thankful that the Board of Commissioners accepted the approval of the grant, and grateful the Board Member Schmelz introduced it the Board. Vice Chair Callaway and Board Member Crumbley asked for a breakdown on what the grant money would be spent on. Director Pitts said that she does not mind letting the Board Members know. Board Member Schmelz thanked them for requesting the breakdown.
- B. Director Pitts stated the turnout of the November 3, 2020 election: total 123,377, 23,733 of those were Absentee by mail.
- C. Director Pitts mentioned that conference call that happened earlier in the morning, saying that it will be a hand recount and further instruction would be given November 12, 2020. Board member Schmelz stated she pulled up the Georgia Code regarding recounts and that she had some concern, and continued asking is certification contingent on the Secretary of State. Director Pitts stated that she replied to your email, but would go back to check if it sent. She continued stating that the office has the second Friday after the election to certify, and stated that the office had completed certification today, November 11, 2020 and the office is now prepared to start the audit/recount upon further instruction. Board Member Schmelz stated that historically, Board Members are notified when certification is complete and that she didn't receive notified of this. Director Pitts said there was some miscommunication because she was told that the Board Members were not involved in this process, but moving forward, she will keep the Board Members abreast on the certification process. Board Member Schmelz asked if there were perspective political parties there to witness the certification. Director Pitts stated that there were political parties present the previous week starting on Wednesday up until Friday. Board Member Schmelz stated that Official Code of Georgia, Code Section 21-2-495, that deals with recounts.

VI. New Business

- A. Chair McBride stated that there wouldn't be a December 1, 2020 election, and that it would be combined with the January 5, 2020 election. She continued stating the early voting schedule will now have to be revised due to this new information. The Board discussed further, and Board Member Schmelz asked if staff could revise the schedule and send it back out to the Board Members. Chair McBride said that she would like the Board Members to make revisions as well and send those to staff to update the schedule. She continued stating once the revisions are done, to come back and hold a special meeting to vote on the schedule.
- B. Chair McBride stated that the January 5, 2020 election would contain Senate and Public Service Commission.

VII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VIII. Executive Session

Vice Chair Callaway made the motion to go into Executive Session, Board Member Schmelz seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Vice Chair Callaway made the motion to come out of Executive Session, Board Member Crumbley seconded.

IX. Board Member Comments

The Board members made their comments.

X. Announcement of next meeting- December 9, 2020

Chair McBride stated that since there is no December 1st, 2020 Election, to move the meeting back up to the original December 2nd, 2020 date.

Vice Chair Callaway made the motion to move the meeting back to December 2nd, 2020 at 1:00 PM; Board Member Schmelz seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

XI. Adjournment

Board Member Schmelz made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chair Callaway. The motion carried 4-0-0.