

Minutes

Monthly Meeting

Georgetown County Board of Elections and Registration

303 North Hazard Street

Georgetown, South Carolina

January 12, 2022

Call

to Order @ 5:30PM James Sanderson - Chairman

Board Members Present: James Sanderson, Billy Altman, Ron Byrd, Mary Holmes, Linda Greene, Phillip Brady, Jay Sherman, Tracey Gibson (by phone).

Absent: Jimmy Young

Staff in attendance: Aphra McCrea

Silent Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance - Board

Public Input: None

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from November 5th, 2021 Canvass Meeting were presented. Phillip Brady moved to approve the Minutes. Seconded by Jay Sherman. Approved unanimously.

Minutes from November 5th, 2021 Monthly Board Meeting were presented. Billy Altman moved to approve the Minutes. Seconded by Mary Holmes. Approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Review and Discuss Current Bylaws

Phillip Brady made a Motion to defer signing recently proposed amended Board by-laws pending the addition of language requiring Members to have to be present to vote at Board Hearings held in public. Seconded by Jay Sherman. The Motion passed unanimously. The Chairman said that the new language would be presented at the next meeting.

Approval of 2022 Regular Monthly Board Meetings Calendar

Copies of the proposed 2022 calendar were passed out to Members. Jay Sherman made a Motion to approve the calendar. Seconded by Linda Greene. Said Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Discussion of Voters Centers

Director McCrea discussed potential for voting centers for upcoming elections and asked for input from the Board. Billy Altman opined that it was a good idea but it would take trainers, personnel and infrastructure before it could be carried out. Director McCrae opined that it could work from a budget perspective. The Chairman proposed that an ad hoc committee of Members Altman, Brady and Greene come back to the Board with a recommendation on moving ahead with voting centers. The Chairman asked Linda Greene will head up the committee.

Discussion of Combining Black River with Kensington

The Director explained the YMCA will not allow further use of its facility for elections. Black River was combined with Kensington in 2020 and was successful. There was general discussion about the issue. Billy Altman made a Motion to move the Black River precinct to Kensington subject to approval of the Georgetown County State Delegation. Seconded by Phillip Brady. The Motion passed unanimously.

March 29th Special Election

An election will be held March 29th for the At-Large School Board seat recently vacated by James Dumm. This will be a county wide election. Director McCrea said polling worker training dates have been set for March 7th to the 11th at Howard Auditorium. There will be a ten day filing period beginning 1/21/22 running through 1/31/22.

Assigning Commissioners specific precincts on Election Day

There was general agreement that Director McCrea will take the initiative to designate Commissioners to monitor respective precincts during elections.

Badges; Business Cards for Board Members

Director McCrea polled the Board to see who needed badges and business cards.

Insurance Coverage Discussion

The Chairman opened up for discussion the concept of getting insurance coverage for the Board. There was general discussion. The Director was asked to research what other Boards in the State have acquired insurance.

The Director will forward emails from the County Attorney on the issue.

Directors Report

Regarding the Board of Elections website, there is now posted information as to what local, state and federal representatives cover particular areas of the County. There will be a SCARE conference for staff in Beaufort in April, but Members do not get credits for attending.

Belin Family Life Center may not be available for upcoming elections in June and November due to previously scheduled events. The Director is scheduled to discuss this further with Belin representatives, otherwise the location will have to be changed.

Director is looking to do a voter registration drive at local high schools for students turning 18 by the November election. She will be talking to relevant teachers to pulse the interest in helping on this initiative.

Regarding absentee voting in future elections, the process will revert back to the prior pre-pandemic method of preserving hard copy ballots in case of a challenge prior to election day.

The Director passed out her Budget Performance Report (see attached) and fielded questions about the budget process in general. The Chairman asked Members to consider additional items to suggest for the upcoming budget year.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

Billy Altman made a Motion to Adjourn. Seconded by Phillip Brady

Approved unanimously.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Ron Byrd, Board Secretary