

BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
August 5, 2019

Chairman Tim McFalls called the meeting to order. Present were Board Members Terence Dicks, Marcia Brown, Bob Finnegan, and Sherry Barnes. Also present were Executive Director Lynn Bailey, Assistant Director Travis Doss, Board Attorney Rachel Mack, and members of the public.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the July 8, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mrs. Barnes made a motion that the minutes be approved as disseminated. Mr. Dicks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The next agenda item was an update of the possible relocation of the polling site currently located at the Augusta University Christenberry Fieldhouse and the scheduled relocation of the polling site located at the Crawford Avenue Baptist Church to the Kroc Center due to accessibility concerns at both locations.

Regarding the relocation of the polling location and precinct realignment in Precinct 102 (currently voting at the Crawford Avenue Baptist Church located at 507 Crawford Avenue and being relocated to the Kroc Center at 1833 Broad Street, Augusta), Ms. Bailey reported the following:

- The required advertisement when relocating a polling location was published on July 18, 2019, which satisfied the legal requirement of publication at least 30 days before implementing a change.
- The advertisement notified the public of the public hearing scheduled in conjunction with the Board's Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, September 9, 2019.
- Following the public hearing and final approval by the Board of Elections on September 9<sup>th</sup>, affected voters will be notified and information will be forwarded to the Secretary of State's Office, as required.

Regarding the possible relocation of the polling location in Precincts 302/507 (currently voting at the Augusta University Christenberry Fieldhouse and possibly being relocated to the Friedman Branch Library located at 1447 Jackson Road, Augusta), Ms. Bailey reported the following:

- The Wrightsboro Road construction project in the area of the Friedman Branch Library is active now. The portion of Wrightsboro Road in front of the Augusta Mall is scheduled to be completed by the end of October and the Wrightsboro Road/North Leg intersection, which is in closer proximity to the Friedman Branch Library, is expected to be completed around the end of December 2019.
- The last meeting that the Board will be able to make a change and give staff time for proper advertisement and submission to the Secretary of State's Office will be at the September 9, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting. The required legal ad must run for 30 days prior to the public hearing and the change cannot be made less than 60 days before any election.

The next agenda item was a discussion of Georgia's new voting system. Ms. Bailey reported the following:

- The Evaluation Team analyzing the RFPs for Georgia's next voting system selected Dominion Voting as the vendor. The proposals were reviewed and scored according to specific criteria including cost, mandatory technical requirements, and a demonstration of the project.
- Information including videos of the equipment is available at the Secretary of State's Website at [www.sos.ga.gov](http://www.sos.ga.gov)
- The 10 Pilot Counties using the system for this November's Election should begin receiving their equipment sometime in August.
- The other counties will receive their equipment in batches over the months following with full implementation expected by December 31, 2019
- Public education will begin immediately upon receiving equipment
- Training for poll workers and administrators will be conducted in phases beginning in August for the Pilot counties and in November for other counties.

Further general discussion amongst the Board and staff then ensued regarding the following:

- The new voting system has robust software for ballot layout, tabulation, election night reporting, hand marked paper ballot adjudication in the event that an over vote is detected, and post-election auditing
- The ability to print ballots on demand for voting by mail and provisional balloting is available with the new system
- The system requires a separate desktop printer for each ballot-marking device
- Procedures for storage and delivery of the equipment are under development
- The voter will access their ballot using a voter access card, which is how the voter currently accesses their ballot
- At the conclusion of voting, the voter will receive a paper ballot and will be encouraged to review it before placing it into the scanner for tabulation and storage.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of voter registration activity in Richmond County. Ms. Bailey presented the Board with a report showing voter registration activity by site and by change code from January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019. She stated that staff would be providing the report twice a year for the Board's review moving forward and that staff would use the report to monitor growth and workflow. Continuing, Ms. Bailey stated that the report well demonstrated the increase in the number of applications flowing to Richmond County through the Department of Driver Services, which was expected to exceed 51,000 applications processed by the year-end.

Continuing with the voter registration update, Ms. Bailey reported the following:

- The NOCA confirmation process is now complete. The results for out of county notices were:
  - 4650 notices mailed
  - 80 confirmed transfers to other counties or states

- 319 voters updated their address and remain in an Active Status
- 1056 undeliverable pieces of mail - voters moved to Inactive Status
- 3195 voters did not respond and were moved to Inactive Status
  
- The results for in county notices were:
  - 4689 notices mailed
  - 6 transferred to other counties or states
  - 3856 addresses were updated
  - 827 undeliverable pieces of mail – voters moved to Inactive Status
  
- Total results were:
  - 9339 notices mailed
  - 5078 voters moved to Inactive Status
  - 4261 voter records were updated

The next agenda item was an update on a new hire in the position of Deputy Registrar. Ms. Bailey reported that interviews had been completed and requested that the Board move to ratify her decision to hire Taryn Saunders who had worked as a temporary employee in the Board of Elections Office off and on for 4 years. Mr. Dicks made a motion that the decision to hire Ms. Saunders be confirmed. Mrs. Barnes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Continuing, Ms. Bailey informed the Board that Chief Deputy Gwen Freeman had announced her retirement effective August 30, 2019. She stated that interviews had been scheduled to fill the position and that she hoped to present a nominee for the position for ratification at the next upcoming Board meeting.

The next item was a discussion of the 2020 Board of Elections Budget. Ms. Bailey highlighted three items for consideration in the 2020 Budget, as follows:

- Addition of a permanent position – Ms. Bailey explained the need to create an additional full-time, permanent Deputy Clerk position. She stated that the addition of a new position in the 2019 Budget had been helpful, but the workload still exceeded the work force level. She stated that the office had employed at least 2 full time, temporary employees consistently since 2015. Mrs. Barnes made a motion that staff proceed with requesting a new permanent position of Deputy Registrar as part of the 2020 Budget Submission. Mr. Dicks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- Pay increase for poll workers – Ms. Bailey stated that poll workers in Richmond County had not received a pay increase in 12 years and that in order to compensate them fairly and to provide better leverage to recruit and retain workers, staff was recommending an increase in pay for Clerks from \$120 to \$135 per day, for Assistant Managers an increase from \$170 to \$190 per day, and for Managers an increase from \$225 to \$260 per day effective with the March 24, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary. Ms. Barnes made a motion that staff proceed with requesting a pay increase for poll workers as presented. Mr. Finnegan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- Capital Expenditure Request – Ms. Bailey explained that in the 2019 Budget a Capital Request spanning both the 2019 and 2020 Budget years to implement a new voting

system and to supplement the state allotment for the new voting system had been submitted. She explained that the amount of the request was based on the amount expended from 2002 on purchasing and updating voting equipment, storage, transportation, and materials. She stated that the 2019 request of \$250,000 was approved and that she would like to move forward with the second phase of the in the 2020 Budget as planned. Mrs. Barnes made a motion that the request for an additional \$250,000 in Capital Funding be submitted as recommended. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The next agenda item was Old Business. There was no Old Business to come before the Board.

The next agenda item was New Business. Chairman McFalls recognized guests. Ms. Fiana Arbab, Lead Policy Fellow and Ladell Gilbert a student at Paine College introduced themselves as representatives of a nonprofit called Georgia Shift. Ms. Arbab explained that Georgia Shift is based in Augusta, Georgia and works with marginalized young people by promoting civic education and engagement. Continuing, Ms. Arbab and Mr. Gilbert presented the following requests on behalf of Georgia Shift for the 2020 Election Year:

- Expanding voting hours at all four Advance Voting sites to 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Adding an additional Saturday of Advance Voting at the Municipal Building
- Adding a Sunday of Advance Voting to two or more of the other sites at Diamond Lakes, Henry Brigham Center, and/or Warren Road Community Center
- Hiring student poll workers with technical skill sets to troubleshoot voting machine issues

Chairman McFalls explained the budget process involved when funding additional services and requested Ms. Bailey to explain any cost increase or logistical issues if additional hours for advance voting were implemented as requested. She reported the following:

- Expanding hours at the Municipal Building facility only – expanding the time period for Sunday voting by two hours - \$350; adding an additional day of Saturday voting - \$2,350; adding an additional weekend of advance voting - \$4,700
- Estimate for expanding weekend voting at the 3 Community Centers – adding a day of Sunday voting - \$7,050
- Estimate for expanding weekend voting at all four locations – expanded hours for weekend voting at all four locations - \$12,100.
- Estimate for expanding voting hours to 12 hours a day across the Board – 25% increase over current expenses for advance voting
- Yearly costs for Advance Voting: 2014: \$30,525 2016: \$51,285 2018: \$38,385
- Expanding hours or adding weekend voting at the Community Centers would require making pre-arrangements with the Recreation Department.

A general discussion amongst Board members then ensued regarding cost, staffing and logistics of expanding voting hours. At the conclusion of the discussion, Chairman McFalls requested that Ms. Bailey contact the Recreation Department regarding the availability of the Centers and asked that the matter be placed back on the agenda for discussion during the next upcoming Board of Elections meeting. Board Member Terence Dicks made a motion that the report and request be accepted as information and that Ms. Bailey obtain the information from the Parks and

Recreation Division as to the availability of the Community Centers. Board Member Marcia Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

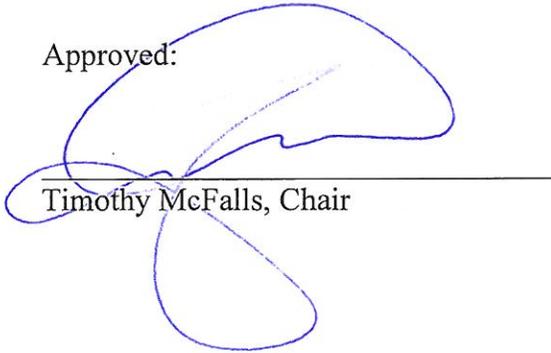
There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Dicks made a motion that the meeting stand adjourned. Mrs. Barnes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Brown, Secretary for the Board

Approved:



Timothy McFalls, Chair