

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
January 13, 2020

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

The first item on the agenda was a discussion of the relocation of the polling site from the Wildwood Christian Church. Ms. Bailey provided Board members with a map of the affected area and an analysis of locations identified in the area as possible polling sites. She reiterated that the Wildwood Christian Church informed the Board on December 16, 2019 that their facility was no longer available as a polling site effective immediately. She further stated that 3975 voters were affected by the change.

Continuing, Ms. Bailey summarized that three locations had been identified by staff as possible polling sites and that all three locations were located outside the boundaries of one or both of the precincts affected. The identified locations were the Windsor Spring Baptist Church, the New Life Worship Center, and the Morgan Road Middle School. She stated that after evaluating the three prospective sites, the staff recommendation was to proceed with the change in location from the Wildwood Christian Church to the Windsor Spring Baptist Church effective with the March 24, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary.

Continuing, Ms. Bailey stated that even though the timeline was tight all requirement for relocating a polling location could be met if the Board met in a special called meeting to conduct a public hearing on or before January 24, 2020. She stated that the one provision that could not be met is the provision set forth in 21-2-265(e) requiring county election superintendents to submit a report to the State Election Board in writing at least 90 days prior to an election if a polling place is established outside of the boundaries of a precinct. Continuing, Ms. Bailey explained that a report would be submitted to the State Election Board as required, but the 90 day notice could not be met due to short notice from Wildwood Church.

After further discussion, Mrs. Barnes made a motion that staff move forward with the relocation of the polling place for the voters currently voting at the Wildwood Christian Church to the Windsor Spring Baptist Church and that arrangements be made for a special called meeting in order to meet various deadlines required by law. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the new voting system. Ms. Bailey reported the following:

- Voting system demos are ongoing and have been well received
- The old equipment is scheduled for pick up on Tuesday, January 14th
- The new equipment is scheduled for delivery on Thursday, January 16th.
- Staff is currently working with the Board of Education to secure additional storage space on a temporary basis but at least through the end of 2020
- A submission for funding for expanded storage capacity has been submitted for consideration for SPLOST 8 funding

The Board accepted the update as information.

The next item on the agenda was an update on qualifying. Ms. Bailey reported the following:

- Regular partisan and nonpartisan qualifying will open on Monday, March 2, 2020 at 9:00 AM and will close on Friday, March 6, 2020 at 12:00 Noon
- Partisan qualifying will be conducted by the local parties at locations to be determined.
- Nonpartisan qualifying will be conducted in the Board of Elections Office
- Qualifying for the Board of Education will open on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 9:00 AM and will close on Friday, August 21, 2020 at 12:00 Noon. Qualifying will be held in the Board of Elections Office.

The Board accepted the update as information.

The next agenda item was an update on the March 24, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary. Ms. Bailey reported the following:

- February 4th – first day to issue mail out absentee ballots
- February 4th – February 27th – poll worker training
- February 24th – voter registration deadline
- March 2nd – first day for Advance Voting
- March 14th – Saturday Voting and the first day for opening the satellite sites for Advance Voting

The Board accepted the update as information.

The next agenda item was an update on educational outreach on the new voting system. Ms. Bailey presented the Board with an updated calendar and explained that all events are posted on the Board of Elections Website.

The next item on the agenda was Old Business. The Board decided by consensus to table the discussion of expanding the hours for Advance Voting and to place the matter onto the agenda of the February 10, 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting.

The next agenda item was New Business. There was no New Business.

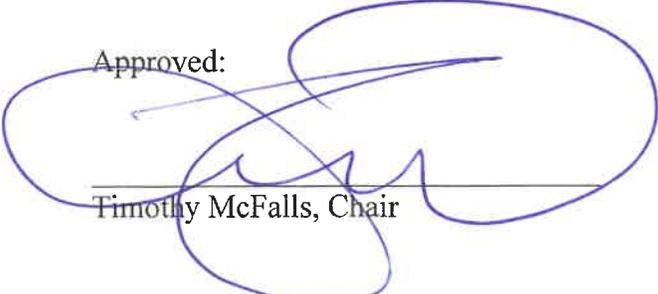
There being no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Barnes made a motion that the meeting stand adjourned. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Brown, Secretary for the Board

Approved:



Timothy McFalls, Chair