

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
October 14, 2019

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

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the September 9, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mr. Finnegan 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 on the relocation of the polling location currently located at the Augusta University's Christenberry Fieldhouse. Mr. Doss offered the following update:

- The only option under consideration is the Friedman Branch Library located at 1447 Jackson Road.
- Staff is moving forward with identifying the voters who will be affected by the change
- The calendar moving forward will be:
 - November 12th – Board of Elections Meeting to include an update on the ongoing road construction project and the Augusta Transit plan for bus shelters in the area
 - November 14th and 21st – the required legal ad to inform the public of the proposed change and the time and date for the Public Hearing will be published
 - December 2nd – Board of Elections Meeting and Public hearing

The next item on the agenda was an update on the November 5, 2019 General Municipal Election. Mr. Doss provided the following update:

- Logic and accuracy testing was completed on September 26, 2019
- Voting by mail and Advance Voting began Monday, October 14 and will run through Friday, November 1, 2019. To date, 23 ballots have been mailed and 2 citizens have voted in person during Advance Voting
- There are 508 Active registered voters in the City of Blythe
- The Election Certification meeting will be held in conjunction with the Regular Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at the Board of Elections Warehouse

The next agenda item was an update on a recent mailing by the Voter Participation Center. Mr. Doss presented the following update:

- The Voter Participation Center (VPC) is a nonprofit group active in promoting voter registration to unregistered citizens. The organization sends partially filled mailings to citizens for them to complete and return to the office of their local registrar. Sometimes, the mailings erroneously identify citizens who are deceased, no longer live in Georgia or are otherwise ineligible to vote (such as a minor).

- In July, the VPC mailed 7,875 prefilled voter registration applications in Richmond County. This September an additional 20,836 were mailed. Completed forms from both efforts have been arriving in our office and are being processed daily.
- Voters may opt out of future mailings by the Voter Participation Center by contacting a web address provided by the Center that will have the effect of unsubscribing them from the service.

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

- The new system will be used for the first time during the March 24, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary – 162 days from today.
- All counties have received a demo voting unit. Demonstrations are being conducted now in the counties who are piloting the system this November. The feedback has been very positive.
- We plan to begin demonstrations here around the first of the year – following training and a little closer to the March 24th election. By that time, all equipment for a proper demonstration should be available to counties.
- Training is ongoing now and will continue until the last week in October. After that time, we will pause for the November General Elections and will resume training towards the end of November.
- The State is developing a plan for de-commissioning the legacy system. Richmond County is among 100 counties in the State who have elections in November. The pickup of the legacy system will occur following the November 2019 election.
- The voting units do not come with voting booths. The State's recommendation is placing the voting units on a tabletop and using a privacy shield to surround the tablet. The Board of Elections staff is currently evaluating options for the best solution including various voting booths.
- In addition to voting booths, additional costs will include paper, toner cartridges, carts, shelving, storage, and other peripheral equipment such as magnifying glasses for voters to use when reviewing their summary ballot. Richmond County will receive 615 voting units.

During the discussion, Chairman McFalls reminded the Board that the 2019 Budget allocation for the Board of Elections Office included a Capital Expenditure request of \$250,000 and that a second Capital request had been submitted in the 2020 Budget request to further fund the purchase of necessary supplies, hardware, software, and renovations needed at the Board of Elections Warehouse.

The next agenda item was an update on the vacancy in the position of Deputy Registrar in the Board of Elections Office. Mr. Doss explained that the application and interview process had been completed and that Rebecca Kim had been offered and had accepted the position. Mr. Dicks made a motion that the hiring of Rebecca Kim in the position of Deputy Registrar be ratified by the Board of Elections. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The next agenda item was regarding the change in the Board of Elections Regular Monthly Meeting dates for November and December 2019. Mr. Doss reminded the Board that the November Regular Monthly Meeting had been rescheduled from Monday, November 11, 2019 to Tuesday, November 12, 2019 in order to accommodate the Veterans Day Holiday. Mr. Doss further stated that the December 9, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting had been rescheduled to Monday, December 2, 2019 due to a training conflict involving staff and Board. The Board accepted the comments as information.

The next item on the agenda was Old Business. Mr. Doss stated that all Board members had confirmed their attendance at the annual training conference to be held in Savannah beginning Sunday, December 8 through Wednesday, December 11, 2019. He further stated that all members should receive confirmation of their registration via email in the near future.

Continuing with Old Business, Mr. Doss stated that the agenda item regarding expanding Advance Voting that was tabled during the August Regular Monthly Meeting had been scheduled for discussion during the December 2, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting. The Board accepted the report as information.

Continuing with Old Business, Mr. Doss gave the following report on recent outreach conducted by the Board of Elections Office:

- September 12th – Naturalization Ceremony held in Federal Court. 20 citizens were naturalized. Voter registration applications and election related information were distributed.
- September 20th – 22nd – Arts in the Heart in Augusta, Georgia. BOE staff participated with other City Departments to inform the public of current events. Citizens registered to vote and received information on voter registration and the electoral process
- September 24th – National Voter Registration Day. Staff conducted a voter registration drive in the lobby of the Municipal Building from 12 – 3. Citizens registered to vote and received information on voter registration and the electoral process
- September 25th – Senior Fall Explosion. This event was for senior citizens who are sight impaired. Attendance was approximately 250 citizens. Staff participated in the event by providing information and giving demonstrations on how sight impaired voters can vote independently using an electronic voting machine

The Board thanked staff for their efforts. Board Member Dicks and other Board members expressed an interest in being notified of future events, especially Naturalization Ceremonies.

The next agenda item was New Business. Mr. Doss distributed information to the Board regarding important dates for the 2020 Election Cycle including the dates set for qualifying and election dates.

Continuing, Mr. Doss informed the Board that in preparation for the November 5, 2019 a list of registered voters had been provided to the Blythe City Clerk for review as required by law. He further stated that upon review, the Clerk had identified 19 voters who were believed to no longer be residents of the City of Blythe and challenged their right to participate in the Municipal

Election to be held on November 5, 2019. For clarification, Mr. Doss explained that the voters identified by the City Clerk would not be removed from the voters list and that the challenge effected only their eligibility to participate in the City election. Continuing, he stated that any challenged voter appearing to vote on Election Day would be offered a paper ballot and would be given the opportunity to appear before the Board before final adjudication of the status of their ballot. After further discussion, Mr. Dicks made a motion that a special called meeting be set for Monday, October 28, 2019 to hear the challenges and that all affected voters be notified of the date, time and place of the hearing as required by. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

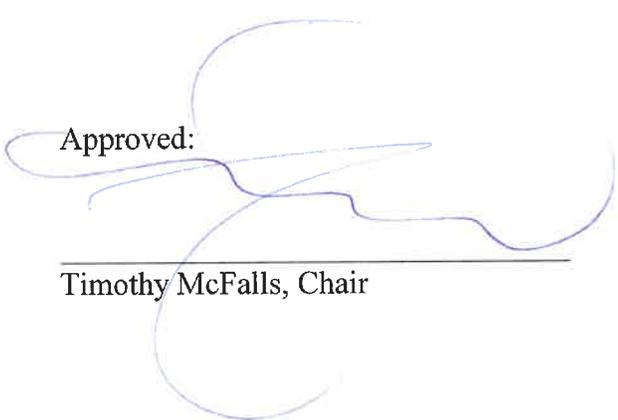
There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Dicks made a motion that the meeting stand adjourned. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Brown, Secretary for the Board

Approved:



Timothy McFalls, Chair