



## **PICKENS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION**

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Board of Elections & Registration Chair Josh Tippens called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### **I. ATTENDANCE**

Josh Tippens  
Mike Carver  
Rebecca Cantrell  
Barbara Ledom-Balducci  
Larry Brown

County Staff in attendance:

Stacey Godfrey- Supervisor  
Rhonda Waggoner- Assistant

Others in attendance:

Mari Livsey- KnowPickens  
Albert Cantrell

### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Albert Cantrell led the pledge of allegiance.

### **III. MINUTES**

A motion was made by Rebecca Cantrell, seconded by Barbara Balducci, to adopt the minutes from the January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting. Members Mike Carver, Barbara Balducci, Rebecca Cantrell, & Larry Brown voted 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to approve the minutes, the vote was unanimous.

### **IV. AGENDA**

A motion was made by Larry Brown, seconded by Rebecca Cantrell to approve the proposed agenda. Members Mike Carver, Barbara Balducci, Rebecca Cantrell, & Larry Brown voted 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to approve the agenda, the vote was unanimous.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Board Compensation**

Chair Josh Tippens proposed a pay cut for board members from \$75/ meeting & \$125/ election day and conference day to \$50/ flat per day worked. This proposal would do away with paying mileage for any training done inside of Pickens County. He stated the extra money saved could be used to host a poll worker appreciation dinner, staff pay increases, or getting necessary equipment for the office.

Mike Carver said none of the board members do this job for the pay, they get involved because each want to do a service for the community. He stated we could not have elections without poll workers, and if giving up a portion of his pay will allow us to do something in appreciation for them, then he is happy to do so.

Larry Brown said he would like to second Mr. Carver on the fact that poll workers are under appreciated, and board members do not do it for the money. His concern was the board should wait for the next budget cycle to request money for this in the budget.

Barbara Balducci said she was for decreasing board members pay if it meant pay increases for staff, appreciation for poll workers, or purchasing new office equipment.

Rebecca Cantrell clarified that the amount the board would be saving with this pay cut would amount to \$3,250 that could be allocated somewhere else.

A motion was made by Chair Josh Tippens to reduce the board pay to \$50 flat per day worked, seconded by Rebecca Cantrell. Members Mike Carver, Barbara Balducci and Rebecca Cantrell voted 3 (Yes), to 1 (No) Larry Brown to approve the pay decrease. The motion carried.

Larry Brown pointed out a mistake on the Travel & Compensation Policy. He said under the “out of county training” it states board member will get per diem, mileage, and a flat rate of \$50 with no mileage or per diem. Josh Tippens said he needed a motion to strike thru the wording “with no mileage or per diem” and make the amendment.

A motion was made by Larry Brown, seconded by Mike Carver to strike thru wording and amend the Travel & Compensation Policy. Members Mike Carver, Barbara Balducci, Rebecca Cantrell, and Larry Brown voted 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to make correction. The vote was unanimous.

## **VII. STAFF COMMENTS**

Supervisor Stacey Godfrey informed the board our county has been assigned a new liaison; her name is Angela Davenport. She gave an update on where the office was with redistricting and the timeline of completion. Ms. Godfrey said the board should have received several emails from her office in the last couple of weeks updating them on information from the current legislative session and for the GAVREO conference. The Elections office attended several webinars the last several weeks hosted by the Secretary of State's Office pertaining to redistricting, NCOA (inactive voters), UOCAVA (military & overseas voters), and GARVIS (new statewide elections program). The SOS office will be conducting weekly meetings for the next month. Ms. Godfrey also let the board know that Rhonda and herself would be attending upcoming training for Easy Vote and L & A Testing this month. She reported that her office has received 9 new poll work applications but asked the board to continue to reach out to their parties to recruit more. Ms. Godfrey commended Rhonda Waggoner on putting together an updated poll worker manual for the poll managers on election day. She announced the plan to have training for just poll managers on how to fill out these forms correctly. That was an important concern on the feedback questionnaire from the November 2021 Municipal Election. Ms. Godfrey reminded the board that qualifying was coming up March 7<sup>th</sup>- March 14<sup>th</sup>. She said ads have been ran in the Progress during January and will continue to run in February & March. After talking with the SOS office, we have found qualifying is different with the Special Election that we are holding to fill the vacant Commission Seat Post 2 (East). She is going to reach out to the media outlets on a article to help with confusion for the interested candidates. Ms. Godfrey also let the board know that Rhonda and herself have been working on the process of completing continuing ed for their MEOC Certification with the SOS. Lastly, she informed the board that her office has been in touch with the Georgia Government Transparency & Campaign Finance Commission about reporting that has to be done for the county elected officials. An email has been sent to all officials with a filing schedule and a link to the forms that must be filled out. Our office has also shared this information with the city clerks because they are the filing officers for their municipalities.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

NONE

## **IX. BOARD COMMENTS**

Josh Tippens wanted to thank the board on a peaceful disagreement when it came to the vote on the compensation policy.

## **X. ADJOURN**

Motion made by Larry Brown, seconded by Mike Cantrell, to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Members Mike Carver, Barbara Balducci, Rebecca Cantrell, & Larry Brown voted unanimously 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to adjourn the meeting.