



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

February 7, 2023

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

### **I. ATTENDANCE**

Board:

Jacque Elwarner  
Mike Carver  
Rebecca Cantrell  
Larry Brown  
Terry Franzen

County Staff in attendance:

Stacey Godfrey- Supervisor  
Rhonda Waggoner-Administrative Assistant  
Phil Landrum- Attorney

Others in attendance:

Mari Livsey- KnowPickens  
Ronny Padgett

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

Mike Carver led the pledge of allegiance.

### **III. AGENDA**

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

### **IV. MINUTES**

A motion was made by Terry Franzen, seconded by Larry Brown, to adopt the minutes from the December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, special called meeting. Members Mike Carver, Rebecca Cantrell, Terry Franzen, & Larry Brown voted 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to approve the minutes. The vote was unanimous.

### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Retention of November 2020 & January 2021 Election Paperwork**

Supervisor Godfrey read aloud the code section O.C.G.A. §21-2-73 that states “All primary and election documents in the office of the election superintendent of each county and municipality shall be kept for at least 24 months.” Ms. Godfrey stated that the retention timeframe has passed for these documents but since it was such a controversial election she asked that the board decide to properly dispose of the records or to retain them for a longer period.

Board member Larry Brown asked if there was any statewide litigation that would pertain to those records. County Attorney Phil Landrum said to his knowledge he did not believe so but would check to make sure. Mr. Brown stated that he felt enough time had passed.

A motion was made by Larry Brown, seconded by Mike Carver to properly dispose of the November 2020 and December 2021 election paperwork pending no current litigation that would require those records. Members Mike Carver, Rebecca Cantrell, Larry Brown, and Terry Franzen voted 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to certify the results. The vote was unanimous.

### **B. Poll Worker Appreciation Dinner**

Supervisor Stacey updated the board that the poll worker appreciation dinner will be held March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at the Pickens County Rec Center. Ms. Godfrey said that after the quotes she received the lowest quote was \$14/ person. She has asked the poll workers to RSVP so a final count can be made.

### **C. Discussion on Polling Place Agreement**

Supervisor Godfrey discussed a future written agreement between the board of elections and polling places. She said over the years it has been a verbal agreement but there is a need for it to be in writing. Ms. Godfrey asked that the board take time to look over the example from another county and give her office feedback on the language they would like to have in an agreement for Pickens County.

### **D. Discussion on Legislative Updates**

Supervisor Godfrey compiled a list of the updates for the capital given by the GAVREO (Georgia Association of Voter Registration and Election Officials) representative on current legislation. She included a copy in each of the board members binders. The list included both House Bills and Senate Bills that are circulating. Ms. Godfrey said the House approved the Secretary of States Budget and now it would go in front of the Senate for their approval.

## **VII. STAFF COMMENTS**

Supervisor Godfrey stated that her staff attended GARVIS (Georgia Registered Voters Information System) training in January. She said that the new system meets all the Federal Security Risk Management standards.

The Secretary of State has issued all counties new poll-pads. This will change the check-in process for Advanced in Person Voting. Check-in will no longer require the laptops, and everything will be done from the poll-pads. This will require the office to purchase more poll-pads. She also said the new poll pads have been CISA reviewed.

Currently there is a new election software update that is in EAC (Election Assistance Commission) Certification. The state is not yet certain on a date they will start the software update. She said Dominion doubled down on the issues from the 2022 CISA report and addressed all the security concerns. The new version 5.17 will be installed by someone from the Secretary of State's Center of Elections Systems. Once the new system has been updated staff will have training.

Staff attended GAVREO (Georgia Association of Voter Registration and Election Officials) Day at the capitol. They were able to talk to several representatives included Steve Gooch while they were there about some of the challenges election officials face when conducting elections.

The office was notified last week that an audit on their campaign finance paperwork dating back for the last five years was required by the Ethics Commission. This includes paperwork submitted by the clerks for the City of Jasper, City of Nelson, and Town of Talking Rock. The office is working with the municipalities to submit those records to the commission.

Staff will attend GAVREO (Georgia Association of Voter Registration and Election Officials) Conference next week. Items to be included on the agenda are Open Records Request, Municipal Elections and Qualifying, List & Street Maintenance, and Preparing for the Presidential Election.

#### **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

NONE

#### **IX. BOARD COMMENTS**

Terry Franzen thanked the staff for all their hard work and keeping up with the magnitude of emails that come through the office on a daily basis.

Jacque Elwarner reminded the board that if they send an email to the group elections board that Stacey is not included in that group. That group is only for board members. If you mean to include Stacey, you will have to add her address to the email.

#### **X. ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Larry Brown, seconded by Terry Franzen to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.