



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

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

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

### **I. ATTENDANCE**

Board:

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  
Abby Tippens  
Levi Tippens  
Luke Tippens

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

Levi & Luke Tippens led the pledge of allegiance.

### **III. MINUTES**

A motion was made by Larry Brown, seconded by Mike Carver, to adopt the minutes from the February 1<sup>st</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 1099 NEC Discussion**

At the time of the meeting the Finance Department had issued a corrected 1099 MISC so no discussion was needed on addressing the 1099 NEC forms.

### **B. Consent Order SEB Case No. 2020-138**

A consent order was received by the Board of Elections and Registration from the Attorney General's office pertaining to the November 2020 Election. It stated that Julianne Roberts was in violation of O.C.G.A. 21-2-265(d) and the office did not have suitable and appropriate access for disabled electors. It stated that we would be fined a civil penalty of \$500, we must modify and/or change the polling location, and be subjected to a public reprimand. County Attorney Phil Landrum reached out to Mr. Stoy the Assistant Attorney General and explained that the former Supervisor and board are no longer employed by Pickens County Board of Elections & Registration. Landrum also explained that the polling location for advanced voting had been moved during the November 2020 Election. They negotiated and agreed to change the penalty to a public reprimand. Chair Josh Tippens asked the board if they had any questions or would like to have discussion on the matter. Board member Barbara Balducci said she thought that was the best possible resolution.

A motion was made by Mike Carver, seconded by Rebecca Cantrell to sign, and submit the consent order. Members Mike Carver, Barbara Balducci, Rebecca Cantrell, and Larry Brown voted 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to sign the order. The vote was unanimous.

### **C. Board Chair Resignation**

Chair Josh Tippens stated that effective after the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, he is resigning as chair. Mr. Tippens said he was proud of the work the board has accomplished in such a short amount of time. The staff has turned the Elections Office into a well-oiled machine. He stated he can leave with the confidence knowing this team will carry on the work that was started. Mr. Tippens said he has been led to go another direction and feels he needs to search out this opportunity. He said his successor will be named at the next Commissioner's Meeting. Mr. Tippens applauds the board on working together and putting aside personal beliefs to focus what is right and fair. Board member Barbara Balducci said she has enjoyed working with Mr. Tippens and she appreciates everything he has done. Board member Mike Carver thanked Mr. Tippens for the job he has done.

## **VII. STAFF COMMENTS**

Supervisor Stacey Godfrey informed the board redistricting has been submitted and our office is waiting for confirmation it was successful from the Secretary of State. She reminded the board members that Qualifying begins March 7<sup>th</sup>- March 11<sup>th</sup> for County Commission District 1 (West), Special Election County Commission District 2 (East), School Board District #2, School Board District #3, and School Board District #5. The ads ran in the paper starting in January. Our office

emailed both parties offering our location for their qualifying. Ms. Godfrey notified at the last Commissioner's meeting the board approved the move of the Elections Office to a new location. We will be sharing a building with the Georgia State Patrol off Camp Road. Renovation should start in March. Ms. Godfrey gave an update on the GARVIS program, she said the state is still finalizing the new program and they hoped to go live on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The Elections Office received a check from the City of Jasper to reimburse our department for postage on precinct cards where they changed the name of the road for the Jasper Precinct. Ms. Godfrey told the board that her office was planning on visiting and assessing all 12 voting precincts before the May 24<sup>th</sup> election. She gave an update on poll worker applications, and let the board know that early voting is completely staffed but a few more workers for election day are needed. Ms. Godfrey reminded the board that the GAVREO Conference is March 20-23, located in their binder is the agenda for the conference and directions to the hotel. She stated that a class is offered at 3 pm on Sundays for new board members and staff, all are encouraged to attend. Ms. Godfrey notified the board that she and Glenda Ferguson, the Elections Supervisor for Dawson County, have been discussing an issue with Big Canoe voters. Because Big Canoe is split between the two counties a portion of the residents are registered in Pickens County and the other portion is registered in Dawson County. Dawson has always allowed the voter to list Big Canoe as the City. Pickens County requires them to use Jasper as the City. The boxes for mailing are located on the Pickens County side of the subdivision. After speaking with County Attorney Phil Landrum, he advised the Pickens County Board of Elections & The Dawson County Board of Elections work on a joint resolution on how to handle this matter. Moving forward Ms. Godfrey stated that she would get contact information for the board chair of Dawson County and the discussion can begin between the two boards. Ms. Godfrey closed by saying that she appreciated everything Chair Josh Tippens has done for the Elections Board and the office, and it has been her pleasure to work with him for the last 8 months.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

NONE

**IX. BOARD COMMENTS**

NONE

**X. ADJOURN**

Motion made by Larry Brown, seconded by Mike Cantrell, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Members Mike Carver, Barbara Balducci, Rebecca Cantrell, & Larry Brown voted unanimously 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to adjourn the meeting.