



PICKENS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION

April 5th, 2022

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

I. ATTENDANCE

Board:

Joe Walker
Mike Carver
Rebecca Cantrell
Barbara Ledom-Balducci
Larry Brown

County Staff in attendance:

Stacey Godfrey- Supervisor

Others in attendance:

Mari Livsey- KnowPickens
David Oles
Carol Keith

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pickens County Board of Elections led the pledge of allegiance.

III. A moment of silence was observed for previous board member Paul Lindsey who passed away.

IV. MINUTES

A motion was made by Mike Carver, seconded by Barbara Ledom-Balducci, to adopt the minutes from the March 1st, 2022, meeting. Members Mike Carver, Barbara Ledom-Balducci, Rebecca Cantrell, & Larry Brown voted 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to approve the minutes, the vote was unanimous.

V. AGENDA

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. May Regular Meeting Date

Supervisor Stacey Godfrey reminded the board that in the November 2021 Election the board voted to move the meeting date until after the election in order to certify the results. She said when the board was at conference in March a discussion had been made during one of the seminars to open a Special Called Meeting on Election Day and keep it open until the Election was certified. This would allow the board to come together and vote on something should an issue come up. With this vote the BOER would keep the regular scheduled meeting date of the first Tuesday in May and have a Special Called Meeting on May 24th. Ms. Godfrey asked that the board put this to a vote.

A motion was made by Mike Carver, seconded by Rebecca Cantrell to keep the regular scheduled meeting and call a Special Called Meeting on Election Day. Members Mike Carver, Barbara Ledom-Balducci, Larry Brown, and Rebecca Cantrell voted 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) keep the regular meeting date and have a Special Called Meeting on Election Day. The vote was unanimous.

B. Re-hire of Cathy Connell

Supervisor Stacey Godfrey proposed the re-hire of Cathy Connell back to the Pickens County Elections Office on an as needed basis. She stated Ms. Connell would come back and work through the early voting process to have a extra person covering the main office while other employees were working the advanced in-person voting location. Ms. Godfrey stated that having Ms. Connell in the office would be a huge asset and she would bring lots of knowledge from her previous experience working in elections. She asked that the board put this to a vote.

A motion was made by Larry Brown, seconded by Rebecca Cantrell to re-hire Cathy Connell. Members Mike Carver, Barbara Ledom-Balducci, Rebecca Cantrell, and Larry Brown voted 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to re-hire Cathy Connell. The vote was unanimous.

C. Poll Worker Compensation

Supervisor Stacey Godfrey notified the board that after having a meeting with the Pickens County Finance Department that her office would have to change the way poll workers were compensated. The Finance Director provided documentation to our office from the IRS showing that poll workers should be considered temporary employees of the county. This will require them to fill out all necessary paperwork just like any new county employee, as well as pass a background check. In the discussion of this change finance also informed our department that if we require poll workers to attend training, we must pay the poll worker for said training. Ms. Godfrey proposed that poll workers be paid \$50 for the night of training. Ms. Godfrey asked the board to put this to a vote.

A motion was made by Mike Carver, seconded by Barbara Ledom-Balducci to approve the \$50 compensation for poll worker training. Members Mike Carver, Barbara Ledom-Balducci, Rebecca

Cantrell, and Larry Brown voted 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to approve the new compensation. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. STAFF COMMENTS

Supervisor Stacey Godfrey thanked the board for their attendance and participation in the March GAVREO conference in Athens. She notified the board that ballot proofs were received last Thursday, and the office has been working on completing the proofs of those. Ms. Godfrey notified the board that the Secretary of State's office conducted a zoom meeting this morning to inform the election officials that GARVIS (Georgia Registered Voters Information System) would be put on hold because of technical difficulties until July. Our office will go back to Enet to give credit for this upcoming Primary Election in May. She gave an update to board members Larry Brown & Joe Walker that she has reached out to the SOS about Firefly access for them both. Ms. Godfrey wanted to remind the board of a few important dates coming up: May 25th is the deadline to register to vote; Advanced In-Person Voting starts May 2nd- May 20th with Saturday dates of May 7th & 14th; May 13th is the deadline to request an Absentee Ballot Application; & Election Day is May 24th. She informed the board that her office is hoping to start the L&A (Logic & Accuracy) Testing April 18th. Ms. Godfrey reminded the board poll worker training will start April 18th- 21st and be held at 5:30 pm in the Pickens Room located at the Administrative Building. She let the board know that the 2nd Quarter Newsletter was completed and getting ready to be sent out to poll workers. Ms. Godfrey gave an update on the new office, she said after speaking with Commissioner Stancil we are still expecting the move to take place in August. Our office will conduct precinct location checks next week to familiarize our staff with all 12 precincts. Ms. Godfrey has reached out to the schools who have polling precincts located on their premises to discuss access and parking for the May 24th Election. Ms. Godfrey informed the board she is working on a Election Day schedule for the board member and she asked each of them to attend one night of poll worker training. In closing Ms. Godfrey took time to thank her staff for all the hard work they have been doing between redistricting, preparing absentee ballots, proofing the Primary ballots, along with their daily work schedule. She said she really has a great staff and couldn't do the job without them.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Oles asked if the L & A Testing is open to the public. Supervisor Godfrey answered yes.

X. BOARD COMMENTS

Board member Larry Brown discussed with the board about developing a legislation outreach plan to inform voters about changes that new legislation has brought. He suggested that we use available community organization meetings to spread this information. Mr. Brown asked the board their thoughts on this matter if it were done correctly. Member Becky Cantrell said she did not think it would hurt to reach out to the voters in this way. Member Mike Carver stated that he would like there to be a list of questions to be answered by the board so that inaccurate information was not given to the public. Member Barbara Ledom-Balducci stated this is the reason she has been doing articles to go in the Smoke Signals and the Pickens Progress to inform voters on information they might not know. Larry Brown said that the job of the board is to make sure we give the voters reassurance and help insure them that their vote is secure. Supervisor Godfrey asked the board to think of the information they would like to get out to the public and which organizations they could deliver the information to by the next board meeting. Larry Brown asked that this issue be tabled and added to the next months agenda.

XI. ADJOURN

Motion made by Larry Brown, seconded by Mike Cantrell, to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. Members Mike Carver, Barbara Balducci, Rebecca Cantrell, & Larry Brown voted unanimously 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to adjourn the meeting.