



PICKENS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION

August 2nd, 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
Larry Brown
Terry Franzen

County Staff in attendance:

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

Others in attendance:

Max Caylor- Pickens County Progress
Mari Livsey- KnowPickens
Kim Bunker
Gary Norman
Robin Smith
A host of other Pickens County Residents

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pickens County Board of Elections, led by Max Caylor.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made by Larry Brown, seconded by Terry Franzen, to adopt the minutes from the July 19th Regular Scheduled Meeting, and the July 26th Special Called Meeting. Members Mike Carver, Rebecca Cantrell, Terry Franzen, & Larry Brown voted 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to approve the minutes.

IV. AGENDA

A motion was made by Larry Brown, seconded by Mike Carver, 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.

V. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Statement on Current Litigation and Court Order

Chairman Joe Walker read aloud a statement on behalf of the Pickens County Board of Elections and Registration stating that the Mora lawsuit will be heard on September 19th by Judge Brantley out of Cobb County. He said that as the case is pending the board will not comment further. He also stated that the Mora lawsuit must be final before the board can file the petition motioned at the July 19th meeting to have legal counsel write an order to unseal the May 24, 2022 Primary ballots in the Superior Court.

B. Discussion of Board Compensation Policy

Board Member Mike Carver said the travel and compensation policy had been determined early in the tenor of the board not knowing what all the duties of the board entailed. In March, the current board voted to decrease the pay of the board members from \$75 per meeting to \$50 per meeting and to use that money to provide appreciation to the poll workers. He said the compensation policy also states that board members are compensated for one day of early voting and on election day. Mr. Carver stated that on election day when board members are going to different precincts checking in, delivering lunch, and collecting memory cards, at the end of the day some board members felt as if they were taking a loss due to the cost of gas. He suggested that board members should be paid mileage during that time.

Board Member Larry Brown agreed with Mike Carver that board should not have to go “in the hole” carrying out their duties on election day.

Supervisor Stacey Godfrey said with the decrease, board pay averages out to \$1,500 per year. She said currently the BOER is providing lunch to the poll workers on election day and that cost is covered from the money saved from board compensation. Ms. Godfrey said she had spoken with the finance department about the board compensation during early voting and they do not have a problem with paying the compensation, but the board members will have to provide proof as to which day or days they are working early voting and the hours they are there. She said she is required to have documentation when submitted payment to be made and because a log was not kept for the May and June elections, she had nothing to provide with the request. Ms. Godfrey said regarding the mileage on election day the board members would have to keep up with mileage to the office and between precincts to have a paper trail to submit to the finance department for reimbursement.

Larry Brown motioned to table the discussion till the next meeting. Mike Carver seconded the motion. Members Mike Carver, Rebecca Cantrell, Larry Brown, and Terry Franzen voted unanimously 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to table the discussion.

VII. STAFF COMMENTS

Supervisor Stacey Godfrey updated the board on a Summer Training Session that the Secretary of State's Office has been offering that has been beneficial to the office. She said her office would be participating in a mandatory statewide training for GARVIS (Georgia Registered Voter Information System) in January.

Qualifying for the City of Nelson Special Election will continue until Wednesday at 4:30 pm at the Pioneer Road office.

The first day to submit an absentee ballot application will be August 22nd.

Ms. Godfrey said if everything goes as planned, they will begin moving to the new office next week. She said the Pioneer Road location would be kept open until the move was completed.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gary Norman said there has been confusion in the public about what has transpired since June 8th. He questioned who is running the board of elections, the board or Attorney Phil Landrum. He said citizens are concerned. Mr. Norman thinks that using the county attorney as the BOER attorney is a conflict of interest.

Kim Bunker is concerned that having one attorney acting on behalf of the county and the BOER is a conflict of interest.

Robert Smith said there are court procedures every day. He said the Mora case should not hold up the court order filed by the BOER. Mr. Smith said each case is different and requires a unique answer.

IX. BOARD COMMENTS

NONE

X. ADJOURN

Motion made by Larry Brown, seconded by Mike Carver, to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Members Mike Carver, Terry Franzen, Rebecca Cantrell, & Larry Brown voted unanimously 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to adjourn the meeting.