



PICKENS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION

September 7th, 2021

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

I. ATTENDANCE

Josh Tippens
Mike Carver
Tracey Wright
Rebecca Cantrell
Barbara Ledom-Balducci

County Staff in attendance:

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

Others in attendance:

Larry Cavender- Pickens County Progress
Mary Livsey- KnowPickens
Ellen Harrison- Smoke Signals

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rhonda Waggoner led the pledge of allegiance.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made by Mike Carver, seconded by Rebecca Cantrell, to adopt the minutes from the August 12th, 2021, meeting. Members Mike Carver, Tracey Wright, Rebecca Cantrell, & Barbara Ledom-Balducci voted 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to approve the minutes, the vote was unanimous.

IV. AGENDA

A motion was made by Chairman Josh Tippens to amend the agenda for tonight's meeting and add "Emergency Change of Polling Place Location for the City of Jasper", Mike Carver seconded the motion. The board voted on the amended agenda and Mike Carver motioned to approve the new agenda, seconded by Rebecca Cantrell. Members Mike Carver, Tracey Wright, Rebecca Cantrell, & Barbara Ledom-Balducci voted 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to approve the agenda, the vote was unanimous.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Cybersecurity Discussion Update

Tracey Wright handed out information to board members about Hall County Government being breeched. She stated that she had reached out to CIS & CISA about a virtual service review but had not received a reply by the time of our meeting. Chairman Josh Tippens said that all further cybersecurity discussion would be done during Executive Sessions.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Amendment to the By-Laws reflecting regular meeting dates to be scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month

A called meeting was held to discuss an amendment to the by-laws reflecting a change to the regular meeting schedule from the second Thursday of each month to the first Tuesday of each month. The previous meeting date was a conflict for the county attorney and the media because it coincided with the Board of Education's meeting. Mike Carver motioned to approve the by-law change, seconded by Rebecca Cantrell. Members Mike Carver, Tracey Wright, Rebecca Cantrell, and Barbara Ledom-Balducci voted 4 (Yes), 0 (No) to approve the regular meeting date change, the vote was unanimous.

B. Community outreach and assignment of action items

A called meeting was held to discuss community outreach and assignment of action items. Chair Josh Tippens discussed the board drafting articles to send to the media detailing election information, dates, and helpful tips to keep voters informed. Barbara Ledom-Balducci volunteered to do a series of articles.

C. Approval for purchase of EZ Vote Software

A called meeting was held to discuss the approval for purchase of new EZ Vote Software. This software will be used to help speed up check-in during in-person voting and help manage absentee by mail applications and ballot requests. The cost of the program will be a onetime fee of \$3,250.00 (that includes set up and training) and \$2,500 annually. Mike Carver motion to approve the purchase of the EZ Vote Software, Rebecca Cantrell seconded the motion. Members Mike Carver, Rebecca Cantrell, Barbara Ledom-Balducci, and Tracey Wright voted 4 (Yes), 0 (No) to approve the purchase of the program, the vote was unanimous.

D. Emergency change of polling place location for the City of Jasper

A called meeting was held to discuss the emergency change of polling place location for the City of Jasper. The City of Jasper is closed to the public due to an outbreak of COVID-19 among employees. Not knowing how long the office will be closed the discussion was made to change the location from 200 Burnt Mountain Road to 55 Dixie Street Suite C. Chair Josh Tippens motioned to approve the emergency polling place change, seconded by Mike Carver. Members Mike Carver, Rebecca Cantrell, Barbara Ledom-Balducci, and Tracey Wright voted 4 (Yes), 0 (No) to approve the emergency change of the polling place for the City of Jasper, the vote was unanimous.

VII. STAFF COMMENTS

Supervisor Stacey Godfrey gave updates on what the staff has been working on. She stated the staff has started working on an inventory list, scheduling a tech for the upcoming election, reached out to poll workers concerning early voting, tentatively scheduled dates for poll worker training, tentatively scheduled L & A testing, and is preparing for the upcoming election. She said that the BOER Office's number one priority is getting the knowledge and information for this upcoming election to run as smoothly as possible.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

IX. BOARD COMMENTS

NONE

X. ADJOURN

Motion made by Mike Carver, seconded by Rebecca Cantrell, to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Members Mike Carver, Tracey Wright, Rebecca Cantrell, and Barbara Ledom-Balducci voted unanimously 4 (Yes), to 0 (No) to adjourn the meeting.