

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION

June 12, 2018

Monthly Meeting

825 Memorial Drive

10:00 a.m.

Minutes

The meeting of the Spalding County Board of Elections and Voter Registration (BOER) convened at the Elections and Voter Registration Office, 825 Memorial Drive, Griffin, GA at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 12, 2018.

In attendance: Chairman Betty Bryant, Vice Chair Margaret Bentley, (arrived at 10:15 a.m.), Secretary Randall Gooden, Board Member Ballard Brooks, Board Member Glenda Henley, Elections Supervisor Marcia Ridley and Elections Assistant Carla Rapp.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Betty Bryant

Public Comments - None

Review minutes from April 10th Regular Meeting

Chairman Bryant asked the board to take time to review the minutes. Board Member Glenda Henley stated she found an error with "Vice Chair Margaret Henley" should be "Vice Chair Margaret Bentley". Chairman Bryant asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the correction.

Motion to approve the minutes: Secretary Randall Gooden with the correction of replacing the last name of Henley to corrected name of Bentley.

Second: Board Member Glenda Henley

Minutes approved 4-0

Old Business:

Update on May 2018

Chairman Bryant asked Supervisor Ridley to give an update regarding May 2018 Election. Supervisor Ridley stated to the Board that the election was deemed successful and we are moving forward. We worked through some issues with one of the candidates but in the end everything worked out very well.

Update of Election Certification

Supervisor Ridley stated that the election was certified on Tuesday, May 29, 2018. The Board of Elections needs to be a part of certifying the elections. Ridley stated to the board that she took the certification materials to the State Highway Patrol Office on same day of the certification, and expressed concern that she was not asked to sign anything when dropping off the materials like she was when she picked them up. Ridley stated that she did voice her concern with the state.

Update on Board Retreat

Supervisor Ridley noted that the staff has worked hard to get everything set for the retreat which will commence this afternoon. Chairman Bryant will be the Moderator and Vice Chairman Bentley will introduce the presenters and Secretary Gooden, Member Henley and Member Ballot will present speakers gifts.

Update on Totem Pocket Display

Chairman Bryant asked Supervisor Ridley for an update on the Totem Display. Ridley stated that it was a big hit. The Poll Workers stated that it was a lot easier to get set up and it saved them over 35 to 45 minutes and they also stated, it looks like we are moving into the 21st century. Ridley noted the moving forward we are looking into doing some online video training and will start with a Provisional piece that will include a short quiz at the end. Ridley stated that she anticipate the video training should be ready in 2019. Chairman Bryant stated that she would like for the board to be trained on Provisional Ballots process. Ridley indicated that it would be awesome to train the Board and will set up the training for them.

New Business:

Voter Registration

Chairman Bryant asked Supervisor Ridley to update the Board on Voter Registration. Ridley told the Board that she passed out the numbers for Voter Registration and she read them to the Board as follows;

Total number of Voters - 43,228

Active Voters – 39,603

Inactive Voters – 3,625

Ridley explained that the last date for Voter Registration was April 24, 2018 for the May 22, 2018 General Primary Election and July 24th General Primary Runoff Election. Ridley stated that Registration will open up most likely in August or early September as the state sets that date. Ridley also told the board that there have been several Deputy Registrar classes since the beginning of the year.

Board Member Ballard Brooks raised the question about canceling voters as noted in recent news reports. Ridley noted that the state is in charge of canceling a voter; however, if a voter misses 2 presidential elections they will receive several letters regarding the cancelation of their voter status. If they do not respond within the allotted time frame, the state will canceled them and they will need to re-register.

Chairman Bryant noted that the Board needs new name tags. Vice Chairman Bentley suggested that they include Voter Registration in the title. Supervisor Ridley asked Chairman Bryant to get her the vendor information and she will look into ordering them.

Fairmont Polling Place

Supervisor Ridley stated that the day before Election Day the poll manager called her and said construction was going on at Fairmont Polling Place. Ridley stated that she was unaware of any construction happening. Supervisor Ridley stated she took Secretary Gooden with her to see the facility and that construction had been going on and created safety issues. Secretary Gooden stated that he got someone to place hazard signs up to direct voters away from the area. Ridley stated that she followed up after the Election and met with the Supervisor of Fairmont and Assistant Poll Manager to determine where the voting would take place during the July 24, 2018 Election. Ridley stated that after much discussion it was decided that the polling place will be in another area in the building and no construction will take place during Election Day.

Secretary Randall Gooden asked whether polling locations were receiving payments for using the facility. Ridley explained that only one facility receives a "donation" of \$100 per election and that is County Line Methodist Church.

Ridley noted that the First Presbyterian Church polling area is currently in an adjacent facility. They contacted Ridley about moving it to another area so they don't have to heat or cool an area they are not using. Ridley met with them and the new area is much more amicable for a polling place.

Gary Reid Polling Place

Supervisor Ridley stated that the poll managers have complained on numerous occasions that the loud speaker in the bay area stays on, then when turned off only to be turned on again. The Poll Manager Jim Berninghaus has expressed his desire to move to another precinct, but none are available. Ridley indicated that she met with both Poll Manager, Jim Berninghaus and Assistant Poll Manager, Jan Berninghaus to advise them that the Board will not be moving the Precinct. Ridley asked Jim and Jan if they would continue to work at Gary Reid during the July 24, 2018 Runoff Election, and she will find a replacement for them before the November 6, 2018 Election, both Jim and Jan agreed.

Ridley told the Board that other complaints have revolved around the fact that the bay doors are kept open, making the precinct very uncomfortable for workers and voters. Supervisor Ridley explained that according to the law the precinct must be held in a much more conducive environment for not only the poll workers but the voters as well. Chairman Bryant stated that Gary Reid is a popular polling place and the Board will revisit this in November when the new set of managers is in place. Ridley will provide the board with the list the law states a polling place should have.

Update for July 24, 2018 Runoff Election

Chairman Bryant passed around the sign-up sheets for lunch relief for Early Voting and Election Day. Supervisor Ridley noted that our team is ready for the election; we anticipated that there was going to be a runoff and started preparing ahead of time. Ridley stated that there are two ballots, one Democratic Race with the School Superintendent and Republican Race with Governor, Lt. Governor and Secretary of State.

The Board gave Supervisor Ridley and staff Kudo for a job well done during the highly contested Election. Board Member Ballard Brooks was appreciative of how quickly Supervisor Ridley was able to get another voting machine to Precinct #21 and asked that it be kept to 5 voting machines. Supervisor Ridley thanked Member Brooks for his comment and stated that she has a meeting scheduled to meet with the manager of Precinct #21 to discuss better efficiency at the poll due to the high volume of voters.

Update on November Ballot

Supervisor Ridley stated that this past legislative session Rep David Knight and Rep Karen Mathiak sponsored a bill to exempt seniors 65 and older from school taxes at the request of Commissioner Don Hawbaker. Ridley stated that the bill passed, and a question will be on the ballot for the November 6, 2018 General Election. Ridley stated that the dates were incorrect on the Call for the Election and she will revise the Call for Special Election and ensure that the Board gets a copy. Finally, Ridley stated that the City of Griffin will also have a Special Election relating to a question concerning alcohol during Brunch but has not received the documents to make the Call.

Verify Citizens for Complaint for Commissioners Don Hawbaker/Gwen Flowers - Taylor

Ridley noted that the Elections and Voter Registration Office was asked to verify potential participants for the Ethics Review Panel to ensure that they resided in the district and were a registered voters. Each commissioner has named 3 people from their district. One person from each district is chosen with an alternate in case the first person cannot participate. Supervisor Ridley stated that she will get the final list to the Board.

L & A for June

Supervisor Ridley noted that L & A will be June 26 & 27, 2018 at 10:00 am. Election Certification will be Monday, July 30, 2018 at 10:00 am. Several members will be out during the month of July. Secretary Randall Gooden stated that he will not be available on July 5-13, 2018 & July 18- 22, 2018. Chairman Betty Bryant will not be available July 12 -15, 2018. Vice Chairman Margaret Bentley will not be available on June 27, 2018 through July 1, 2018.

Study Committee for the New Voting Machine

Supervisor Ridley is part of a legislative team that made recommendations for the Study Committee which will meet Wednesday, June 13 to get discussions going regarding new voting machines. Popular consensus is that voters want a receipt that shows who they voted for. Not sure what the committee will choose, but it will be costly. It will be up to the newly elected Secretary of State to determine what they will do.

Discussion of a Closed Session

Chairman Bryant asked about how to handle setting up a Closed Session. Ridley stated that the board can decide anytime if they want a Closed Session. Just need to sign the Affidavit. Ridley asked when they would like to schedule the session and it was decided to hold it on Friday, June 22 at 10:00am.

Legislative Update:

Ridley noted that the aforementioned question for tax exemption is slated for the November ballot – she will get the updated call to the board. Nothing else passed this session.

Reports:

Chairman Bryant asked if anyone had anything else to report or comment.

Board members: None

Elections Supervisor: Supervisor Ridley thanked everyone for their support and that she strives to keep this office running in the spirit of excellence and is happy to represent Spalding County.

Chairman Bryant noted that she took Supervisor Ridley to lunch last week and Brian Kemp's wife was the speaker and she told her that Spalding is lucky to have Ridley at the head of Elections.

Announcements:

Next regular meeting – August 14, 2018

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn: Vice Chairman Margaret Bentley

Second: Board Member Ballard Brooks

Motion passed: 5-0

Minutes taken by Elections Assistant, Carla L. Rapp

Minutes approved by:


Randall S. Gooden – Secretary