

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION

February 11, 2020
Monthly Meeting
825 Memorial Drive
10:00 a.m.

Minutes

The meeting of the Spalding County Board of Elections and Voter Registration convened at the Elections and Voter Registration Office, 825 Memorial Drive, Griffin, GA at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

In attendance: Chairman Margaret Bentley, Vice-Chairman Randall Gooden, Secretary Glenda Henley, Board Member Betty Bryant, Board Member Vera McIntosh, Elections Supervisor Marcia Ridley, Elections Assistant Carla Rapp, and County Attorney Stephanie Windham.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Margaret Bentley

Public Comments – None

Approval of Agenda February 11, 2020

Chairman Margaret Bentley asked if anything needed to be added or changed on the agenda. Being none, Bentley asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Board Member Betty Bryant made a motion to accept the agenda as written. Seconded by Board Member Vera McIntosh. Motion passed 5-0.

Review minutes from January Regular Meeting

Chairman Margaret Bentley asked if there were any corrections or additions to the January 14, 2020 meeting minutes. Vice-Chairman Randall Gooden noted that on the 2nd page, third paragraph it should read Bentley stated not state. Board member Betty Bryant made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction. Board member Vera McIntosh seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Old Business:

New Voting Machine

Supervisor Marcia Ridley noted that we're getting geared up with the new machines. 98% of the equipment and materials are here. Waiting for the privacy panels and other materials. Dominion has provided a technician for each county to work through the elections up to May.

We will have 196 machine, printers, and privacy panels. 23 ICP/Scanners (Garbage cans). Early Voting and Eagles Landing might get 2 of the ICP/Scanner units. Vice-Chairman Gooden cautioned that we probably shouldn't refer to the ICP as garbage cans. People might think that the ballot is being trashed. Ridley stated that it is called ICP, scanners to the voters. Board member Bryant asked about the poll pad. Ridley stated that during Early Voting there will be a paper certificate to sign and the Poll Pad will serve the same function as the old Express Poll. On Election Day, the Poll Pad will take the place of the certificates as the voter will sign on the Poll Pad as well as it will create the ballot on the voter access card.

Ridley stated that demonstrations on the new machines are being set up. Groups can call the office for an appointment and come to the office. Two sites will be set up with all the equipment. Will also be doing a demonstration at Board of Commissioners meeting. Ridley is also trying to get Secretary of State Raffensperger to come to the Senior Center for a demonstration.

New Business:

Statistical Report

Supervisor Ridley distributed the statistical report. As of February 10, 2020, we have a total of 46,183 voters; 44,321 active voters and 1,862 inactive voters. Ridley noted that the change in the number of voters has grown since she started here. Registration deadline is February 24, 2020. Absentee by mail is available now.

Open Records Request

Chairman Bentley noted that at the last meeting an Open Records Request was made by Ray Lightner regarding agendas and minutes. The minutes are available on the county website and the agenda will be on Novis. Bentley also remarked that if someone wishes to receive all the agendas from the county, they need to email Kathy Gibson,

Assistant to William Wilson. Ridley stated that Open Records Requests need to be emailed to her. She mentioned that 2 people from each department will be trained on how to update the county website.

Legislative Update

Supervisor Ridley stated that there weren't any major updates. A resolution was proposed to honor someone who worked in Elections at Butts County for 40 years. She also noted that Elections Officials Day at the Capitol will be rescheduled due to a break in the session. Date to be determined.

Reports

Board Members

Chairman Bentley noted that she attended 2 meetings. One meeting was with County Attorney Stephanie Windham regarding representation for the Board of Elections. Windham is assigned to the Board of Elections and will come to the meetings as able. She will be available for legal advice, however if there was a perceived conflict then another attorney will be assigned to the issue.

Chairman Bentley also met with Commission Chair Gwen Flowers-Taylor. Bentley said that the Board of Elections was unaware of the retreat that the Commissioners had and wanted to know what the status of the meeting was. Attorney Windham stated that it involved enabling legislation. First issue was that the Election Supervisor should report to the County Manager. Second issue was the make-up of the Board of Elections. A consensus was not reached on either issue. It was suggested that there be a Town Hall meeting with both boards. Vice-Chairman Gooden stated that there should be a meeting between the two boards before a Town Hall meeting. Nothing has been set yet.

Elections Supervisor

Supervisor Ridley stated that the staff has been training on Cyber Security through the state as well as Brian Haynes who works on our redistricting. We had 4 Open Records Requests and 3 have been completed. The staff has been working on the felon list. Must be an exact match in order to send a letter in which they have 30 days to respond. We still have one challenged voter- Frances Everett.

Ridley noted that we have had 2 Deputy Registrar trainings. If anyone knows of a group who would like to be trained let Carla or Dwana know. The HAVA grant is in progress to address voting security. We will be getting security cameras, stanchions and tables. We also will have 3 extra people in the office. Kudos to William Wilson for working with us on these changes and updates. We will be looking into hiring a technician, which will be put into next year's budget as well as training pay for poll workers. Ridley will be working on it in the coming weeks.

Supervisor Ridley handed out the upcoming training list for poll workers and invited the board to attend one of the trainings. Just let Carla know.

Vice-Chairman Gooden asked about the question posed to Attorney Windham regarding campaigning. Windham replied that the definition of electioneering can be passive or active. Passive is defined as wearing a campaign item. Active is passing out materials with the candidates' information. However, the definition of a political body does not specify apparel. She stated that an opinion from the Attorney General should be solicited. She noted that she has nothing specific to report at this time. Supervisor Ridley stated that there is a State of Georgia code that addresses this issue. Windham asked Ridley to send her the information on the code. The Board of Elections asked Windham to seek the opinion of the Attorney General.

Announcements

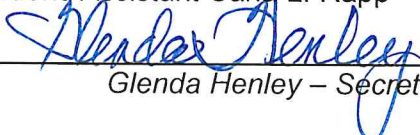
Chairman Bentley asked if anyone had any announcements. None were noted. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2020. Typically, there isn't a meeting during Early Voting, mainly due to the space used for the meeting. Now that Early Voting has moved, we have the space to have the meeting. Bentley asked if the Board wanted to have the meeting. Vice-Chairman Gooden stated that they should have the meeting, however he would not be able to attend. Board member Betty Bryant made a motion that the meeting should be held. Seconded by Secretary Glenda Henley. Motion passed 5-0

Meeting Adjourned

Chairman Bentley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board member Betty Bryant moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chairman Gooden seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 am.

Minutes taken by Elections Assistant Carla L. Rapp

Minutes approved by  _____
Glenda Henley – Secretary

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION

March 3, 2020

Special Called Meeting

825 Memorial Drive

10:00 a.m.

Minutes

The Special Called meeting of the Spalding County Board of Elections and Voter Registration convened at the Elections Office, 825 Memorial Drive, Griffin, GA at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

In attendance: Chairman Margaret Bentley, Vice-Chairman Randall Gooden, Secretary Glenda Henley, Board Member Betty Bryant and Board Member Vera McIntosh. Also, in attendance was Supervisor Marcia Ridley and Spalding County Attorney Stephanie Windham.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Margaret Bentley. This meeting was called to discuss the July 2020-2021 Elections and Registration Budget.

New Business

Supervisor Ridley discussed the addition of a cell phone for each precinct for use during the election and additional poll workers due to the new equipment and voter turnout.

She noted that there is also a mandate by the state for poll workers to attend training for 2 hours. Ridley noted that the poll workers need to be paid for their time, this would be considered for the Primary and General Elections not runoffs. It was decided that they will observe this election to determine the need in November. Dominion is just here to program the equipment for the Election. Everything is new with 4 counting systems as opposed to one. Motion was made by Board Member Vera McIntosh to approve the operational budget. Seconded by Board Member Betty. Motion passed 5-0.

Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn the special called meeting and go into Executive Session to discuss salaries and possible new hires by Board Member Bryant, seconded by Board Member McIntosh at 11:02 am. Motion passed 5-0. The Board agreed to accept the hiring of an Elections Technician along with the justification.

Motion made to close Executive Session by Vice-Chairman Gooden, seconded by Board Member Bryant at 11:58 am. Motion passed 5-0.


Returned to called meeting, Attorney Windham agreed to ask the county manager's office to clarify a few things for the board relating to how the county office sets the salary of the Elections Supervisor to fulfill its duty according to the law. A motion was made by Member Bryant to re-submit the Resolution to increase the Elections Supervisor salary to come in line with other Elections Supervisors in the industry and Board member McIntosh seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Next meeting is March 10, 2020.

Motion to adjourn made by Board Member Bryant, seconded by Board Member McIntosh. Meeting adjourned at 11:59 am.

Minutes taken by Secretary Glenda Henley and written by Elections Assistant Carla L. Rapp

Minutes approved by


Glenda Henley – Secretary