

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION

March 10, 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, March 10, 2020.

In attendance: Chairman Margaret Bentley, Secretary Glenda Henley, Board Member Betty Bryant, Board Member Vera McIntosh, and Elections Supervisor Marcia Ridley.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Margaret Bentley

Public Comments – None

Approve Agenda

Chairman Bentley asked if there were any changes in the agenda. Board Member Vera McIntosh moved to accept the agenda as written, seconded by Board Member Betty Bryant. Motion passed 4-0.

Review minutes from February Regular Meeting and Special Called Meeting

Chairman Margaret Bentley noted that the minutes were not finished and asked that they be tabled until the next meeting.

Old Business:

New Voting Machines

Supervisor Ridley noted that all the equipment is here, and everything is running smoothly at Early Voting. She said that she is proud of the staff and that there will be a couple more trainings for people who couldn't make other trainings. Also, we had an investigator with the State to come and look at the privacy of the machines and he gave Spalding County kudos for how things are set up. He will be back later this week or next to make sure everything is in compliance. Chairman Bentley stated that a lot of people are concerned about privacy and all that they have seen on TV are machines without privacy panels. Ridley reiterated that the Early Voting team has done very well with the new system and she really gives them kudos for all they have done. We look forward to Election Day and have the same outcome. The technician with Dominion will be here until May, he has done great and has even volunteered to help with demonstrations. We will continue to do demonstrations so the voters can feel comfortable with the system as they are the ones driving the election.

New Business:

Statistical Report

Supervisor Ridley distributed the statistical report. As of March 10, 2020, we have a total of 46,351 voters; 44,455 active voters and 1,896 inactive voters. She noted that the registration cutoff was February 24, 2020. The highlighted areas show what we are doing in the office so that the board can talk about what is going on in the office.

Qualifying

Supervisor Ridley said that we had 17 people to qualify. We had tables set up for both the Republicans and Democrats. Half of the money they receive they give back to Spalding County. We also had non-partisan candidates of which, that money comes to Spalding County as well. It went very smooth as we used the computer to enter in the candidates instead of having them fill out the paperwork and then we notarize it right then. Then all the parties needed to do was to collect the money. They did certify the Election and she has documentation from both parties. They did get copies of the paperwork and a list of candidates in their party. Now the state can build the ballot from that information for the May 19, 2020 Election.

Early Voting

Ridley noted that she had covered most of that earlier and she will keep everyone updated on the numbers everyday of the election. Not a lot of foot traffic. But people are coming in steadily. Chairman Bentley noted that there were a large number of Seniors who have come in and she was pleased with the turnout of around 200 each day. The last few days

of Early Voting probably will be heavy. Ridley thanked the board for getting the word out about the new machines and all of this is due to voter education. She was also glad that a line item was put into the budget for promotional items.

Legislative Update

Ridley noted that she is on the state Voter Education and Elections Committee. There is a bill on the floor to separate the certain races, so they are not combined with others, but nothing has been decided yet. They are also still discussing the Absentee Ballot envelope where the voter signs the back of the envelope. Ridley noted that this is serious with people stealing people's information. The reason they have pushed it is that the overseas voters do not have to put that information on the back of their envelope it's inside. Crossover day is Thursday. She will keep the board informed of any changes.

Reports

Board Members

Chairman Bentley stated that we (the board) are the face of the Elections Office. We need to stay on top of things. She said that she went to the County Commission meeting last week and there was discussion on the agenda to make some changes in legislation for the Board of Elections and it was voted down to not make any changes to the Board of Elections for the time being. Both she and Randall Gooden spoke as well as members of the community in favor of the Board. There were 2 changes proposed. One was to put the Elections Supervisor under the County Manager and the other was to change how the board is selected due to how the parties select the members. There isn't anything that can be done now, since crossover day is this week. But the Commission Board recommended not to make any changes to the Elections Board. This issue has been brought up several times since 2017. There was a Special Called meeting during the retreat they had last month. It was brought up again at that meeting to take it off the table again. At their first meeting in February they discussed having a public meeting in March. There was a great turnout at the meeting of around 100 people. There was a petition that had about 130 signatures on it to keep the Board as it was. There was representation from the NAACP and UOA (Urban Outreach Association) groups. All in favor of keeping the Board as it is. When it was voted on, it was 3-1 with James Dutton voting against. That was a successful meeting and we got a lot of good public comments.

Secretary Glenda Henley was happy that the citizens recognized what a good job Marcia and her team are doing and how helpful everyone has been, and she appreciates the job everyone has done.

Elections Supervisor

Supervisor Ridley stated that the staff and some temps are certified in Cyber Security training in the use of the ElectionNet database. Social Media and the website are being updated with information. Ridley asked the board if they wanted their pictures on the website and to let her know. Audits continue and we are 99.1% due to human error, but still working with Brian Haynes at the City of Griffin. The 4-H groups have been moved to April.

Chairman Bentley asked about the process at Early Vote vs the process on Election Day. Ridley stated that during Early Vote, the voter is checked in with EZ Vote to print the application and then double checked through Enet. Then the card is created on the Poll Pad. During Election Day, they will just have the Poll Pads for check-in and signature on the Poll Pad. They can also do a manual entry. Also, in EZ Vote the application has been shortened to one signature instead of 2 places.

Ridley noted that the HAVA grant will be filed this week or next to get money back on items purchased for Voter Security. We now have cameras. Just need to find out who is monitoring it. This room is now the conference/training room. The room is now done, and we are moving on to make the office secure.

Board member Bryant noted that she could not be here on Election Day. Ridley noted that we will do the check in in this room. Bentley explained to Board Member McIntosh the process on helping out on Election Day. Ridley asked that the Board help out by going out to the precincts to observe and keep the board involved. Ridley stated that the suitcases are used for collecting the ballots. Ridley noted that delivery of machines will start at 11:00 due to the need of trucks. At the end of the Election Day the Poll manager takes out the SD/Memory Card from the Scanner and brings that back to the office. Just in case something happens there is a backup card in the Scanner. Ridley will keep everyone informed of any things that are changing.

Ridley stated that there had been a couple of Open Records Requests from various groups asking about how many machines we had and if we received everything. All those requests have been completed. There was one complaint from Bob Gilreath. He called the office for Supervisor Ridley and he hung up before the call got transferred. Ridley called him back, but his number is connected to a Magic Jack device and Ridley left a message, but he did not get it. He complained to William Wilson responded to him noting that she reports to the board. He was complaining that she was not sending out media reports to him. Ridley spoke to the county attorney Stephanie Windham and she agreed that it is not Ridley's job to send out the reports to him. They have to request them. He mainly wanted the list of candidates

that had qualified. Ridley did send that list to Kathy Gibson to put on the website and send out to the community. Windham and Ridley agreed that was the best method. Anytime there are complaints she will bring it to the board.

Announcements

Chairman Bentley asked if anyone had any announcements. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2020. Bentley mentioned that voting demonstration was done at Fairmont Community Center for the EPI group. Board member McIntosh asked if Sun City had requested a demonstration and Ridley noted that she will check into it. Ridley also did a video demonstration of the new voting machines that was aired on the Rice Report on Face Book.

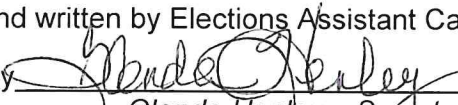
Meeting Adjourned

Chairman Bentley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board member Betty Bryant moved to adjourn the meeting. Board Member McIntosh seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 am.

Minutes recorded and written by Elections Assistant Carla L. Rapp

Minutes approved by



Glenda Henley – Secretary