

Minutes of the Richland County Board of Elections and Voter Registration
Monday, February 26, 2014
4:00pm

Board Members in Attendance

Mr. Allen Dowdy, Chair
Ms. Adell Adams, Vice-Chair
Ms. Elaine DuBose
Mr. Samuel Selph
Mr. Herbert Sims

Staff in Attendance

Mr. Howard Jackson, Director
Ms. Lillian McBride, Deputy Director of Voter Registration & Absentee Services
Ms. Amie Brunson, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. It was noted that a quorum was present to allow the meeting to proceed and that the meeting had been properly posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act requirements.

Amend the Agenda

- A motion was made to amend the agenda to proceed into Executive Session before the Board Chair's comments. Seconded. Approved 5-0.

Executive Session

- A motion was made to proceed into Executive Session to discuss personnel related issues. Seconded. Approved 5-0. The Board entered into Executive Session at 4:04 p.m.
- A motion was made to come out of Executive Session at 4:26p.m. Seconded. Approved 5-0.
- A motion was made to reconsider the vote relative to the Director. Seconded. Approved 5 - 0.
- The Board stated that Mr. Howard Jackson's last day will be February 26, 2014. By 5:00pm, Mr. Jackson shall vacate his office and return all office and tax payer property. Mr. Jackson shall be paid through February 28, 2014. Seconded. Approved 5 - 0.

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Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- The Board Members reviewed the minutes from February 24, 2014. A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded. Approved 5-0.

Board Chair Comments

- Mr. Dowdy stated that in an effort to make the office more accountable to citizens, decisions had to be made. As a result, leadership and office staff were evaluated which resulted in a decision being made after careful consideration.
- The Board is committed to working towards regaining trust in the office and desires that all votes are counted and accountable for. To continue the stabilization and to move the office forward, the Board has decided to appoint Mr. Samuel Selph as Interim Director. Mr. Selph has been a poll manager at the Woodfield Precinct since 1984 and is a 40 year retiree of South Carolina State Government. Mr. Selph will serve in this capacity until someone capable can be found to lead the office. Mr. Selph, the newest Board Member, will manage the office on a day to day basis and will resign from the Board immediately to serve as Interim Director.
- Mr. Dowdy requested for Mr. Selph to read his resignation letter. Mr. Selph stated that the letter was addressed to the Delegation Chairman, Representative Joe Neal:

"This letter is to inform you and the other members of the Richland County Legislative Delegation of my resignation from the Richland County Elections and Voter Registration Commission, effective immediately. I am resigning at this time because the Board requested that I assume the directorship of that office, in an interim capacity. I have enjoyed my tenure with the Commission and trust that I can depend on your continued support. Again, my sincere thanks.

Samuel J. Selph

- A motion was made to accept Mr. Selph's resignation from the Board. Seconded. Approved 4 - 0.

Citizen Input

- Mr. Dowdy stated that the Board appreciates the community's involvement, but since that citizen input be held off until the next meeting.
- Mr. Robert Liming responded and indicated that the issues are far more pressing to put off until another meeting. Mr. Liming further stated that the Board was in receipt of a copy of a letter that was sent to Mr. Jackson regarding public confidence in the voting process. Mr. Liming stated that he was 1 of the 1100 citizens whose vote did not count during the November 2013 election. The public is calling for more openness and so far, there have not been answers regarding the individual(s)

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responsible for the uncounted votes and disciplinary actions against those responsible; the public has a right to know.

- Mr. Dowdy thanked Mr. Liming for his comments.

Closing Remarks

- Ms. Elaine DuBose made a motion to appoint Mr. Samuel Selph to act as interim director for as long as it takes to find a new director. Seconded. Approved 3 – 1.
- Ms. Adel Adams requested that the Board Member’s individual votes be recorded for the minutes:
 - Mr. Herbert Sims - Yes
 - Ms. Elaine DuBose – Yes
 - Mr. Allen Dowdy – Yes
 - Ms. Adel Adams – No
- Ms. Selph responded that he is humbled by the Board’s votes and has confidence that the office will move forward.
- Mr. Dowdy stated that he believes that the Board will work together as a team to move the office forward.
- Mr. Jim Carpenter requested to speak before the Board and stated that he is an attorney from Greenville, SC who represented the plaintiff in a court case that was brought against the Board regarding the Board’s legality. According to the judge’s ruling, the law that established the board and dis-established the two previous boards was ruled unconstitutional and that the Board is currently acting without the sanction of the law.

Adjournment

- There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn. Seconded. Approved 4 – 0. The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Recorded by: Amie Brunson, Administrative Assistant