

Minutes of the Richland County Election Commission
Tuesday, April 8, 2014
4:00pm

Commissioners in Attendance

Mr. Allen Dowdy, Chair
Ms. Adell Adams, Vice-Chair
Ms. Elaine DuBose (via conference call)

Staff in Attendance

Mr. Samuel Selph, Interim Director
Ms. Amie Brunson, Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance

Attorney Alex Postic

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 4:00 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.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from March 4, 2014. A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded. Approved 3-0.

Adoption of Agenda

- A motion was made to approve the meeting's agenda. Seconded. Approved 3-0.

Interim Director Comments

- Mr. Samuel Selph, Interim Director, informed the Commissioners that pursuant to the letter received from the Richland County Legislative Delegation, the relationship between the Election Commission and the Board of Voter Registration has been severed and both offices are now operating separately.
- Mr. Selph also informed the Commissioners that the Town of Eastover Election was being held on today and that he had visited the polling location and reported that the all the machines were working and that the operation was proceeding very smoothly. Although the Election Commission provided the Town of Eastover with voting machines, the Town certifies its own elections.
- As of January 1, 2014, the Richland County Legislative Delegation approved the creation of 25 new precincts for a total of 149 precincts in Richland County.
- In preparation for the June 10, 2014 Primary Election, the vendor who furnishes the voting machines has conducted preventive maintenance on over 1200 voting machines currently being stored at the off-site warehouse location.

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- The Election Commission will comply with state directives to ensure 1 voting machine for every 250 voters.
- As of today, 9 precincts contain over 2500 voters, and those precincts will also be fully equipped with the proper number of voting machines and poll workers.
- Mr. Selph informed the Commissioners that he expects a smooth, fair and efficient election on June 10, 2014.
- Mr. Selph opened the floor for comments and Attorney Alex Postic provided the following comments regarding the status of the lawsuit against the Election Commission:
 - The combined Board of Elections & Voter Registration was sued by Mr. Rusty DePass and a public interest group. The lawsuit found that the combined Board was unconstitutional. At the present time, there is a temporary restraining order for the Board of Elections & Voter Registration operating as one board. Within the coming weeks, clarification regarding the temporary restraining order will be provided. Another hearing is scheduled for April 2014.

Board Chair Comments

- A motion was made to officially separate the Election Commission and the Board of Voter Registration. Seconded. Approved 3-0.
- Mr. Dowdy stated that he is positive that everything will go well for the upcoming election as the office continues to move forward and that the staff will ensure that all ballots are counted. The Commission's goal has always been to help restore public confidence and trust in the election process in Richland County.
- Mr. Dowdy also stated that this meeting may be the last official time the existing Commission members will meet and if that is the case, Mr. Dowdy thanked his fellow Commissioners and the citizens of Richland County for the opportunity to serve.

Adjournment

- There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn. Seconded. Approved 3 - 0. The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Recorded by: Amie Brunson, Administrative Assistant