

Minutes of the Richland County Board of Elections and Voter Registration
Tuesday, October 7, 2014
4:00pm

Board Members in Attendance

Ms. Adell Adams
Ms. Jane Dreher Emerson
Ms. Sylvia Holley
Ms. Marjorie Johnson
Mr. E. Peter Kennedy

Staff in Attendance

Mr. Samuel Selph, Interim 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 4:01 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.

Oath of Office

- Senator John Scott administered the oath of office to all Board Members.

Organization of Current Board

- *Election of Chairperson*
 - A motion was made to elect a Chair based on the nominees from the October 1, 2014 Board Meeting. The nominees were Ms. Marjorie Johnson and Mr. Pete Kennedy. A vote was taken: Johnson - 3, Kennedy - 2.
 - Based on the vote, Ms. Marjorie Johnson became Chair of the Board of Elections & Voter Registration. Ms. Johnson thanked her fellow Board Members for their vote of confidence and that the public will know that the Board is here for them and that the Board will strive to make the meetings transparent and continue to work very hard to regain the public's confidence and interest.
- *Election of Vice-Chair*
 - Nominations were taken from the floor. Ms. Adell Adams was nominated by Ms. Sylvia Holley and Ms. Jane Emerson nominated herself.
 - A motion was made to postpone the vote for vice-chair. Seconded. Not approved. 2 - 3.

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- A motion was made to elect a Vice-Chair. The nominees were Ms. Adell Adams and Ms. Jane Emerson. A vote was taken: Adams – 3, Emerson - 2.
- Based on the vote, Ms. Adell Adams became the Vice-Chair of the Board of Elections and Voter Registration.

Approval of the July 28, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes

- The Board Members reviewed the minutes from July 28, 2014. By consensus, the Board accepted the meeting minutes from July 28, 2014.

Adoption of Agenda

- After reviewing the agenda, a motion was made to delay the discussion of the proposed by-laws. Seconded. Not approved. 2 – 3.
- A motion was made to adopt the meeting's agenda. Seconded. Approved 3 - 2.

Discussion of Proposed By-Laws

- The Board reviewed a draft copy of the proposed by-laws.
- Mr. Pete Kennedy informed the Board that all requested changes from the October 1, 2014 Board Meeting, were listed in blue.
- Ms. Marjorie Johnson suggested that the by-laws be reviewed and discussed for the third time at the next scheduled Board Meeting.

Board Chair Comments

- Ms. Marjorie Johnson, spoke concerning many issues that needed to be addressed regarding voting machine security, and that the voting machines need to be housed in a centralized, secure, and climate controlled environment.
 - Mr. Samuel Selph, Interim Director, informed Ms. Johnson that voting machines are currently being housed in a facility that is climate controlled, secured and is monitored by a Security company 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Staff is assigned to continuously monitor and check all voting machines.
 - Additionally, Mr. Selph is in constant communication with Mr. Tony McDonald, the Administrator for Richland County and they are working together with various departments to locate a suitable location for the Elections & Voter Registration Department and Warehouse to be consolidated.

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Director's Comments and Updates

- *Legal Update*
 - Mr. Selph informed that Board that the office was carried to court because of the way it was structured. On October 14, 2014 at 2:00pm, a summary judgment motion will be submitted.
- *Election Updates*
 - October 4, 2014 was the last day to register to vote to participate in the November 4, 2014 General Election.
 - Absentee voting began on Monday, October 6, 2014 in the Elections & Voter Registration Department.
 - The UOCAVA ballots have been issued in order to comply with the election timelines.
 - 1132 voting machines are operable even though only 1035 voting machines are needed for the November 4, 2014 General Election.
 - 149 precincts will be used for the upcoming election.
 - All poll workers who will work on Election Day are currently being trained.
 - Public testing of voting machines and election equipment was conducted on October 1, 2014.
 - All voting machines and related equipment has been cleared, tested, and are ready for the upcoming November 4, 2014 General Election.

Closing Remarks / Citizen's Comments

- Senator John Scott encouraged all Board Members to continue Board training and to pursue certification, have mutual respect for each other and to continue to work together as a team.
- Ms. Eaddy Roe Willard questioned whether or not the proposed by-laws will be made public and if the Board meetings will ever be recorded.
 - Ms. Johnson stated that a written copy of the by-laws can be provided.
- Representative Kirkman Finley, House District 75 requested information regarding the number of operable voting machines vs. the number needed for the upcoming election. Rep. Finley also encouraged that Board to allow the meetings to be recorded which would be a proactive step for the public to see consistency and confidence in the process.
- Rep. Finley questioned if the voting machines would be delivered to the polling locations approximately two weeks before an election, how can the Board ensure the voting machines will be secured and protected.

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- Mr. Selph advised Rep. Finley that all voting machines will be locked and secured once delivered to the polling facilities.
 - Ms. Jane Emerson questioned how true that statement was because from her experience, it is not always true that voting machines are secured once delivered to the polling facilities. Ms. Emerson suggested that there be a chain of evidence and that someone goes to each polling location to sign off that all voting machines are stored in a locked and secured location.
- Ms. Johnson indicated that all concerns raised will be taken under advisement.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Recorded by: Amie Brunson, Administrative Assistant