

Minutes of the Richland County Board of Elections and Voter Registration
Friday, November 7, 2014
12:00pm

Board Members in Attendance

Ms. Marjorie Johnson, Chair
Ms. Adell Adams, Vice-Chair
Ms. Jane Dreher Emerson
Ms. Sylvia Holley
Mr. E. Peter Kennedy

Staff in Attendance

Mr. Samuel Selph, Interim Director

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order and 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.

Adoption of Agenda

- A motion was made to adopt the meeting's agenda. Seconded. Approved 5-0.

Board Chair Comments

- Establishment of 2015 Public Hearing Schedule
 - A motion was made to meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month with the exception of November and December. Due to holidays during those months, meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of November (November 18, 2015) and the 3rd Tuesday of December (December 16, 2015). Seconded. Approved 5 – 0.
 - A motion was made for all meetings to be conducted at 4:00pm. Seconded. Approved 5 – 0.
- Call for Executive Session re: Personnel Grievance & Commission Litigation Update
 - A motion was made to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Grievance and Commission Litigation Update. Seconded. Approved 5 – 0.
 - A motion was made to end Executive session. Seconded. Approved 5 – 0.
 - A motion was made to recess the Board Meeting and return to the Board of Canvassers Meeting. Seconded. Approved. 5 – 0.

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- A motion was made to return to the Board Meeting. Seconded. Approved 5 – 0.

Board Discussion

- Ms. Marjorie Johnson, Chair, stated that the Board is continuing to pursue a way to consolidate the elections and voter registration department. The Board will continue to ask the County Administrator and anyone else who has the wherewithal or the desire to see to it that the hardware and machinery are stored appropriately in a climate controlled environment which is most conducive for computer equipment.
- Ms. Johnson commended the staff of the Elections & Voter Registration Department as well as the Commission members regarding the November 4, 2014 General Election.
- Ms. Jane Emerson raised concerns that some individuals requested absentee ballots but did not receive their ballots. The Board was advised that when individuals call, their information is logged into the system, application and dates are automatically entered and logged. The post office is informed that absentee ballots are going out, but individuals are advised to contact the post office if they are having trouble with receiving their ballots.
- Ms. Sylvia Holley stated that the more education is needed for the public through workshops to discuss voter registration and the importance of voting.
- Ms. Johnson questioned the results of surveys conducted by the Federal Bi-Partisan Policy Center at the encouragement of the State Election Commission.
 - Mr. Selph responded that the surveys were conducted in about 20 polling precincts in order to develop a best practice process. At the selected precincts, the 15th person in line was given a card to mark when they arrived at the precinct. Once the voter arrived at the check-in table, the poll worker noted the time the voter was checked in. Based on the results, it took approximately 7-8 minutes.
- Ms. Adell Adams requested that the King's Grant Polling Location be moved due to it being housed in a gated facility.
- Mr. Pete Kennedy requested to add public comments to the agenda.

Director's Comments & Updates

- Although there were some bumps in the road, the November 4, 2014 General Election has been a success.
- There were no major machine issues, and the call center logged 1162 calls into the Department's Sharepoint system.

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Closing Remarks

- Ms. Johnson reminded the Commissioners of being responsible for scheduling their training for certification within 18 months.
- The next scheduled Board Meeting will be held on November 18, 2014 at 4:00pm.

Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Recorded by: Amie Brunson, Administrative Assistant