



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, July 9, 2019

The July meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration was called to order by Chairman Gibson at 10 a.m.

Present were Patricia Gibson, Chairman; Sandy Dean, Vice Chairman; Keith Rustin, Secretary; Tommy Clark, Member; Patricia Featherstone, Member; Christopher Channell, Supervisor; Christina Redden, Assistant Supervisor; Jason Wilbanks, Glynn County Attorney; Matthew Kent, Glynn County Public Information Officer; Taylor Cooper, Brunswick News; Paula Galland, Women's Voices of Glynn County (WVGC); Jeff Kilgore; Michelle Grovner; Julie Jordan; and Joy Turner

Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2019 Regular Board Meeting

Ms. Featherstone requested the minutes be corrected reflecting the Board's decision to scan all voter registration cards versus scanning only the most recent cards. Mr. Channell also added Mary Ann Nichol's name to the guest list.

Ms. Dean motioned to approve the amended minutes, Mr. Clark seconded. The motion was approved 5-0.

Old Business

None

New Business

Public Information Officer Discussing Options for New Voting Machines

Chairperson Gibson introduced Glynn County Public Information Officer, Matthew Kent, to discuss ideas to educate the public about the new voting machines. Mr. Kent introduced 4 basic strategies as options: 1) A short 2-min introductory video produced by Glynn County at no cost, 2) A brochure produced by Glynn County, 3) Utilizing social media and local social media "groups", and 4) Utilizing local media outlets.

Chairperson Gibson suggested integrating the proposed video into a longer presentation needed for Board members and staff when visiting local organizations. This presentation must be standard, supply consistent information, and include printed brochures. Mr. Kent assured the Board that he will get enough video footage and pictures to meet the Board's presentation needs.

Mr. Clark inquired about budget for these options. \$15,000 is currently dedicated to support the roll-out of the new machines. Ms. Featherstone asked if the Secretary of State's office will offer training videos and literature as support. Mr. Channell was tasked to determine if Glynn County will receive any briefing packets or related items from the SOS and report back at the August meeting. Noting the limited time remaining, the Board agreed to remain proactive should the SOS not supply the needed videos and literature.



Mr. Channell said there is still no news from the SOS regarding the new machines. The new machines will be used in Charlton County this November. Board members and Elections staff are planning to travel there to observe the new machines during their Early Voting period.

Request for Consideration of Sunday Voting

Chairperson Gibson presented WVGC's request for an additional early voting day on a Sunday. There is concern about requesting funds for another day of voting after so recently receiving funding for the third early voting location and the scanning project. Ms. Featherstone requested data to analyze which days and hours are most beneficial for early voting. There was discussion of alternatively using shifted hours to make voting available in the evening. Efforts should also be made to inform the public that they can vote at any early voting location and that absentee voting is available to all county voters. Chairperson Gibson asked Paula Galland, representing WVGC, for her input and Ms. Galland agreed that shifted hours is a good option. WVGC will provide input regarding ideal times and days for shifted hours.

Office Report

Mr. Channell introduced Christina Redden as the new Assistant Supervisor. He provided an update on the scanning project. One scanner will leave in July and Ms. Redden is handling the personnel replacement. The process will be standardized before training the new scanner.

The current budget status was presented to the Board as well as an introduction to the County's new MUNIS display showing fiscal year 2020's approved budget.

This meeting was held in the second floor training room and accommodates a larger public seating area. All future meetings will be held upstairs except during Early Voting.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Featherstone noted the lack of a public comment period in BOE meetings versus other Glynn County government meetings. She proposed amending the by-laws to accommodate public comment and support the Board's mission of greater transparency. Chairperson Gibson appointed Ms. Featherstone to meet with Mr. Wilbanks to draft an amendment to the bylaws. Chairperson Gibson then opened the floor to public comment. Ms. Jordan publicly thanked the Board for their efforts towards transparency and considering alternative voting hours.

Executive Session

Mr. Clark made the motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Rustin seconded. The motion passed 5-0. The Board came out of Executive Session.

Adjournment

Mrs. Dean made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Clark seconded. The motion was approved 5-0.

Patricia Gibson, Chairman

Keith Rustin, Secretary