



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday July 13, 2021

The July meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration was called to order by Chairman Featherstone at 2:00 p.m.

Present were Patricia Featherstone, Chairman; Keith Rustin, Vice-Chairman; Patricia Gibson, Secretary; Sandy Dean, Member; Tommy Clark, Member; Christopher Channell, Supervisor; Christina Redden, Assistant Supervisor; Gordon Jackson, *The Brunswick News*; Pam Shierling, *The Islander*; Ward Schaumberg; Terry Starry; Billy Gibson; Paula Galland; Michelle Grovner; Lavonia Clark; Jason Wilbanks, Assistant County Attorney; and Debra Bragdon, Director of IT.

Public Comment

There was no public commentary.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Clark made a motion to accept the minutes for the June 8 Work Session, Ms. Dean seconded. The motion passed 5-0. Mr. Channell noted a correction to the June 8 regular meeting minutes regarding the FY 2021 budget and the cost of the SPLOST election. Ms. Featherstone requested a further a correction to the amount of the budget shortfall because end of the year data was not available at that time. Mr. Rustin expressed objections to the revision. Ms. Featherstone made a motion to accept the revised minutes of the June 8 meeting, Mr. Clark seconded. The motion passed 4-0, Mr. Rustin abstained.

Old Business

Office Space Update-Commission Work Session on July 20

Mr. Channell stated the Board's space issue has been placed on the County Commissioner's July 20 work session agenda. A current revision of the proposed floorplan will require additional drainage lines within the building but will offer better public bathroom access. Ms. Gibson commented how the redesign promotes a secure separation of public space and workspace, but increased the public's ability to observe activities, especially on Election Night. Ms. Featherstone asked Mr. Channell what could be expected in the work session. Mr. Channell replied that the latest revision of the floorplan will be presented as the most viable option, but alternative floorplans will also be available. The Board should expect to justify the space needs and the proposed floor plan. Mr. Clark commented on the need to urge action on this topic, stating that the outsourcing of the project has increased delays. Mr. Clark stated he further believes it is necessary to have Mr. Channell and Public Works co-manage the project. Ms. Featherstone stated the Board must ask for a formal approval of the floor plan and ask for action on the bid process.

SB202 Focus Series: Tabulation

Ms. Redden presented the changes in the Tabulation process related to SB202. Although much hasn't changed about the actual process of opening envelopes, Ms. Redden emphasized there are important changes regarding the notice and scheduling needed before tabulation begins as well as the reporting and deadlines at the end of tabulation. Consequences for missing these requirements or deadlines would be serious and would likely result in a performance evaluation with the State Election Board. Ms. Redden also explained the new ballot envelopes and ID requirements may lead to photocopies of IDs inside oath envelopes. Mr. Rustin noted that this would make the laws about opening envelopes conflict with the laws regarding processing absentee ballots and provisional notifications. Mr. Rustin stated he will ask for guidance at the GAVREO conference if the State has not provided training on the topic by that time.



Municipal Election Update

Ms. Channell stated the ballot build forms have been submitted to the state. Qualifying will be the week of August 16. Poll worker training will be scheduled later in the Fall. To date, everything is on schedule for this election.

New Business

Urbana-Perry Parks Relocation Process

The Bethel-Evangel church has consented to hosting the Urbana-Perry Parks precinct. Agreements will be signed in the next week. The notice of the proposed change was placed in the paper on July 5. There must be 30 days between the notice and the decision to move a precinct, to allow time for public comment. The Board will plan to vote on the action at the August monthly meeting. Ms. Featherstone inquired about the new space meeting the machine requirements and Mr. Channell confirmed the location is very large, easy to access, and meets all of the machine needs. Mr. Rustin inquired about the distance from the new location from the old location. Ms. Redden stated the new location is less than half a mile, or eight blocks, down on the same street from the original location. Mr. Channell assured the Board there will be plenty of banners announcing the change at least one week before the election.

Office Report

Mr. Channell presented the closed FY21 budget and the current FY22 budget. The shortfall in the FY21 budget is due to legal fees, the unexpected SPLOST election, and a State mandated increase in poll workers. The significant increase in FY22 is the Dominion warranty for the elections equipment. Ms. Featherstone inquired if the budget included the purchase of new machines. Mr. Channell replied that additional machines will not be required until the FY23 budget.

In other office business, the Elections Specialist position has been posted on the county jobs website. GAVREO conference registrations are due by July 30. Board members should notify Ms. Redden regarding attendance and banquet plans. Mr. Channell and Ms. Redden recently attended a regional meeting discussing SB202 and reapportionment/redistricting. The incoming Board member, Ward Schaumberg, will be sworn in on July 21. Mr. Channell also reviewed important upcoming dates. Ms. Featherstone asked Mr. Channell to respond to a recently received letter requesting a forensic audit of 2020 elections results and machines.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Rustin thanked Ms. Gibson on her leadership and for encouraging him to serve on the Board. Ms. Gibson stated she is also thankful for having had the opportunity to serve the community. Mr. Clark commented Ms. Gibson has been an asset to the Board and her knowledge will be missed.

Executive Session

There was no motion for Executive Session.

Adjournment

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

Reception for Retiring Board Member Patricia M Gibson

After the close of Board business, a reception was held to honor Ms. Gibson's many years of dedicated service.

Patricia Featherstone, Chairman

Keith Rustin, Vice-Chairman