



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday January 11, 2022

The January meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration was called to order by Chairman Featherstone at 2:05 p.m.

Present were Patricia Featherstone, Chairman; Keith Rustin, Vice-Chairman; Sandy Dean, Secretary; Ward Schaumberg, Member; Tommy Clark, Member; Christopher Channell, Supervisor; Christina Redden, Assistant Supervisor; Terry Starry; Michelle Grovner, Joyce Kitchens, and Lavonia Clark

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes: December 14, 2021, Regular Meeting

Mr. Clark made a motion to accept the minutes and Ms. Dean seconded the motion, the motion passed 5-0.

Old Business

Athens GAVREO Conference March 2022

Mr. Channell informed the Board hotels rooms have already been reserved. Board members were asked to confirm their attendance and conference options with Ms. Redden to complete their registration. Ms. Dean inquired which office staff would be attending the conference. The Supervisor and Assistant Supervisor will attend. Mr. Channell noted that the new Elections Technician would be attending Center for Elections Systems training later in January.

Redistricting Update

State Representative Don Hogan will introduce the county's redistricting bill now that the 2022 legislative session has begun. The County is drafting notice of legislation to be placed in the paper this week. Staff have been using the State training software to prepare for updating the voter registration database. Mr. Schaumberg inquired about the process. Mr. Channell explained it is a very large, manual project but is more effective when conducted by one person with oversight from the Supervisor. Assistant Supervisor will be the point of contact for the changes. The GIS department has worked with the Assistant Supervisor to identify effected streets.

Office Space Update

Ms. Featherstone and Mr. Channell attended a project committee meeting held earlier today with Commissioner Neal to prepare the final package for bidding. Ms. Featherstone commented the commissioner and committee members are committed to meeting the Board's security and space needs. The Procurement Officer will set up a pre-bid conference and manage the bid process. There will be a 30-day award period with a target to start construction by April 1, 2022. Construction is currently estimated to last 365 days. Mr. Rustin inquired about signs for the new building. Mr. Channell stated the sign is not part of the construction package and will be bid closer to the project completion.

FY23 Operating Budget Request Discussion

Mr. Channell presented the final proposed numbers with notations explaining any differences. Among items increased were equipment costs to accommodate the mandated purchase of additional equipment, travel expenses due to Glynn County's increased participation in State activities, and poll worker pay. Ms. Dean inquired about need for a replacement mobile ballot printer. Mr. Channell and Ms. Redden explained the printer experiences much higher-than-expected use. The additional usage caused the State supplied printer to fail earlier than expected. Mr. Channell has budgeted for alternative printer options. Mr. Clark stated it is important to get the best tool for the job to prevent failure during an election. Mr. Clark also commented on the county's significant cost for the Dominion warranty covering equipment selected by the State. Mr. Schaumberg inquired if the House or Senate has made any movement toward legislation to reduce the number of machines required on



election day. Mr. Channell answered that no official legislation has been introduced yet. The additional machines will be covered under a manufacturer's warranty for one year and are not included in the budgeted amount. Ms. Featherstone asked if the 2022 Voter Guides are included in the proposed budget. Mr. Channell has budgeted for the voter guides and plans for them to be used at upcoming voter education events. Mr. Channell also noted increases in advertisement because of new legal notice requirements from SB202. Ms. Featherstone also remarked on the additional election costs budgeted in case of an unplanned election in FY23. Unplanned elections in FY21 and FY22 justify the added expense which can be returned to the county if not used or can be ear-marked by the county for this potential situation. Ms. Dean noted that all of the additional costs are due to legal mandates which the Board and County have no control over. Mr. Channell said if the Board approves, he will submit this proposal to the Budget committee. The Board agreed to move forward with this proposal.

New Business

Precinct Options for St Simons Island

Mr. Channell presented the proposed map for the consolidation of the Saint Simons Island precincts from four to three precincts. This would eliminate the Hampton River precinct but leave it available as an emergency backup. Mr. Channell noted the effected precincts have very low election day turnout as island voters primarily utilize advanced in-person voting. Mr. Schaumberg stated his support for the move but asked about the message to describe the change to voters. Ms. Redden explained poll worker and election resources have been stretched thin with four precincts but consolidating to three locations allows for a larger, more experienced poll worker team as well as quicker technical support if needed. More equipment will be deployed at each location, notices and signs will be placed in prominent locations, and all impacted voters will receive new precinct cards. Ms. Dean made a motion to consolidate the four Saint Simons Island precincts to the three precincts shown in the proposed map. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Office Report

Mr. Channell reviewed the rolling calendar and noted upcoming outreach and education events such as campaign finance/qualifying training for candidates and voter outreach presentations. Office staff has extended invitations for voter outreach events to local community groups and anticipates a full schedule this Spring. Mr. Channell also presented the current budget and noted the resignation of Administrative Technician, Mary Torres. Qualifying will begin in March and legal notice will run in the paper before the end of the month. Ms. Featherstone inquired about the final cost of the Municipal elections. Mr. Channell stated the current estimate is \$28,000 for the general election and \$22,000 for the runoff. Mr. Schaumberg asked when the contract with the city will be renegotiated. This is expected in April.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Schaumberg noted the number of political signs in town even though candidate qualifying is several weeks away. Mr. Channell stated there is no regulation against campaign signs before qualifying. Ms. Featherstone requested an evaluation of job descriptions and responsibilities at the February meeting. Ms. Featherstone also inquired if Ms. Torres had been able to complete the Poll Worker Management Standard Operating Procedures before her exit. Ms. Redden answered this was not finished and she will work with the new employee to develop and document these procedures based on the information Mary has been able to provide.

Executive Session

There was no motion for Executive Session.

Adjournment

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



Patricia Featherstone, Chairman

Sandy Dean, Secretary