

Sumter County Board of Elections Meeting

Sept 1, 2020 at 4:30 pm

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Gaston.

II. Roll Call

a) Board Members present: Chairman James Gaston, Dr. Shirley Latimore, Carson Walker, and Marty McDonald

Rhonda Reddick was absent at the beginning, but arrived soon after.

b) County Attorney present: Kimberly Reid

c) Staff: Randy Howard, Lois Phillips

III. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Randy Howard asked to amend the agenda, to approve the August 4 minutes at the next meeting of Sumter County Board of Elections.

Carson Walker moved to adopt the agenda as amended.

Marty McDonald seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

IV. Approval of the August 4, 2020 Minutes

Postponed to the next meeting

V. Dr. Michael Busman Appeal for Reconsideration by the Board

Dr. Michael Busman referred to the letter he sent to the board. He gave a brief history of who he is and the positions he has had in the community over the past 22 years.

Dr. Busman recounted the districting issues that the School Board has had over the past few years, and the result of the court order that was issued on April 8.

He asked that the Board take all of this into consideration.

Chairman James Gaston asked if anyone had comments or questions for Dr. Busman.

No comments or questions.

Chairman James Gaston stated that the Board will be discussing this during Executive Session today and will make a decision after completing the Executive Session.

VI. By-Laws Discussion

Attorney Kimberly Reid has a draft prepared that will be sent to the committee of Board Members that had input into the By Laws discussion (Dr. Shirley Latimore, Carson Walker, and Randy Howard), for their review. Any resulting details and questions can be discussed at the next Board of Elections meeting.

VII. Budget Discussion

Randy Howard presented information regarding the budget. He appreciates all the work that other departments are doing to help with it.

There will be an insert put into the Shopper newspaper that people can pull out and keep for reference.

There will also be advertising on the radio and in newspapers. We want to have well-informed voters. Mr. Howard also stated the results of the submitted grant applications.

VIII. Election Update

Randy Howard presented information on the work that is progressing on the School Board redistricting, including the maps and borders of each district. Americus GIS is doing a fantastic job with the maps.

We are also in the process of making sure all the precincts and combos are correct. There are many steps to get this done. We want to make sure everything is right.

Poll Worker training is going very well.

Many applications for absentee ballots are being received in the office. There are benefits for electors to use the "My Voter Page" on the Secretary of State's website.

Every precaution necessary is still being taken with regards to Covid-19.

The drop box will be available for people to drop off their absentee ballots.

IX. Executive Session

Marty McDonald made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation.

Carson Walker seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

Chairman James Gaston stated that the open meeting will resume after the Executive Session.

Executive Session started at 5:01 pm.

At 5:25 pm, the open meeting resumed.

Marty McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session.

Dr. Shirley Latimore seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

No motion was made to reconsider or rescind the recent Board Members' decision to disqualify Dr. Michael Busman from running in School Board District 6. Therefore the decision stands.

X. Board Member Comments

Carson Walker stated that we are following all rules and regulations regarding Covid-19.

XI. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Marty McDonald.

Rhonda Reddick seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Phillips

September 2, 2020