

**Sumter County Board of Elections Meeting
January 21, 2021 at 4:30 pm**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Gaston at 4:30 pm.

II. Roll Call

a) **Board Members:** Chairman James Gaston, Dr. Shirley Latimore, Rhonda Reddick, Carson Walker

b) **County Attorney:** Kimberly Reid

c) **Staff:** Randy Howard, Kathryn Zak

III. Motion to Adopt Agenda

Carson Walker made a motion to accept the agenda.

Rhonda Reddick seconded the motion

Motion carried

IV. Motion to Adopt the January 7, 2021 Minutes

Dr. Shirley Latimore made a motion to accept the minutes.

Carson Walker seconded the motion.

Motion carried

V. Elections of Board of Elections Officers

a. Chairman: Carson Walker nominated James Gaston; Rhonda Reddick seconded, Unanimous approval

b. Vice Chairman: Carson Walker nominated Dr. Shirley Latimore; Rhonda Reddick seconded, Unanimous approval

c. Secretary: Carson Walker nominated Randy Howard, James Gaston seconded, Unanimous approval

VI. By Laws Discussion

a. 2020 Amended By Laws

Kimberly Reid suggested writing a policy and not put it in By Laws. Can be changed easier when needed. Include agenda items, citizens comments. Just basic lines in by-laws. Policy can be changed easier by Board when needed and policy can back up office policy. Would show consistency. Must stick to the policy. Agenda items can include must be received 4 business days in advance of meeting; 5 minute time limit; agenda items must be relevant to the meeting and submitted to Randy. Name must be on the agenda. Kimberly Reid will handle this

b. Tracked Changes to 2nd Draft 2021

Push that training hours of Board members counts. Need to tweak language about employees as county employees

Motion to amend by Carson Walker, seconded by Dr. Shirley Latimore, unanimously approved.

VII. ESPLOST 2021 Discussion and Approval

School Board has been notified that they will pay all reasonable expenses for the election as they are only ones on ballot. This election like a general election with 3 week advanced voting taking place. Board will be given a good estimate but must pay actual expenses. Resolution calling for Sumter County ESPLOST election on March 16, 2021. Motion made by Dr. Shirley Latimore, seconded by Carson Walker, passed unanimously.

VIII. 2021 State Elections and Voter Registration Calendar

Passed out

IX. Board of Election 2021 Meeting Calendar

Discussed

X. Budget Discussion

Working on it will have better understanding during the week.

XI. Election Office move to old Code and Zoning Office Status

Randy has been Surplus looking at furniture, Larry and crew assisting, several cases of covid making it slower than thought

XII. Executive Session

None needed

XIII. Board Members Comments

Dr. Latimore brought up posts found on internet. Concern about poll managers during elections, Many negative comments, feeling this is reflection on Board and should not be able to continue to work elections.

James Gaston had questions about Absentee Ballots and how signatures are handled. Law states 3 people to check. Randy will be going to Lowndes County to see how they are handling it. Also State reviewing how elections are handled.

Compensation for Board Members: Local legislation bands compensation to board. Randy checking into this . Would like \$50 per meeting and expenses, on election day hourly rate same as poll worker.

XIV. Adjourn

Dr. Latimore made motion to adjourn meeting.
Rhoda Reddick seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Zak
January 22, 2021