

**Sumter County Board of Elections and Voter Registration
Regular Meeting
March 1, 2022 at 4:30 pm**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dr. Shirley Latimore at 4:30 pm.

II. Roll Call

a) Board Members: Chairman Dr. Shirley Latimore, Vice-Chairman Carson Walker, Rhonda Reddick, Marty McDonald, and Dr. Valerie Roberts

b) County Attorneys: Kimberly Reid

c) Staff: Randy Howard, Lois Phillips

III. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Dr. Valerie Roberts moved to adopt the agenda.

Rhonda Reddick seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

IV. Approval of the February 1, 2022 Regular Meeting and February 8, 2022 Called Meeting Minutes

Rhonda Reddick moved to adopt the minutes from the February 1, 2022 Regular Meeting and from the February 8, 2022 Called Meeting.

Carson Walker seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

V. Discuss the Special Election for the 3rd District Commissioner and Run Off

Randy Howard presented the statistic that 118 people have voted so far in Early Voting. He is hoping that the March 15 Election Day will show more interest by the voters. If no candidate holds a majority of votes after Election Day, we will probably have a Run-Off Election on April 12.

VI. Discuss the May 24, 2022 Primary Election and TIA

Mr. Howard discussed the worded advertising that has gone to the newspapers and our website.

He stated that Qualifying for the May 24th Primary Election starts on Monday, March 7 at 8 am and continues through Friday, March 11 at 12 noon, for the Local Offices of County Commissioner in Districts 2 and 4, as well as a State Court Judge. After Qualifying finishes, we will know better who is running in the May 24th Election.

Election for the Local Offices of School Board in Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7 will take place in November (because of the court order), with Qualifying to be held in August.

On the May 24th ballot, there will also be a Question regarding the imposition of a special district transportation sales and use tax (also known as TSPLOST or a Transportation Investment Act (TIA) tax). If passed, it will be in effect for 10 years.

Early Voting for the May 24th Election would start around May 2, 2022.

It is a busy year for the Elections office. Mr. Howard showed the office calendar, which details the upcoming Election dates, Early Voting, Run-offs, Qualifying, Conferences, etc. for the year. It looks like there could be at least 100 days of early voting, not including actual Election Days for this year! There are computer system changes and extra training taking place this year as well.

VII. Discuss Redistricting

Redistricting is coming along, but it has its challenges! We have had to wait for the School Districts, the Commissioner Districts, the City Districts, the Reapportionment office – and now the new lines are being drawn right through apartment complexes, etc. With all the changes, we are also having to start over with new Combo numbers for each precinct. And we cannot finish and complete the Redistricting until the end of the April Run-off Election, so that the changes do not affect anything in the Commissioner District 3 Special Election process.

VIII. Georgia Association of Voters and Election Officials Conference

a) Expense Form for Travel

b) Expense Form for Meals

c) Tax Exempt Forms for the Lodging

Mr. Randy detailed all the forms that are in the forms package that each Board Member was given. He will also email these to each member tomorrow. Some discussion followed.

IX. Discuss the Zoom Preparation and Guidelines

Mr. Howard related that the Commissioner's office is purchasing new equipment for recording, etc. We may or may not be able to use their equipment each time, and if we did, we would need to provide one person to operate it to ensure that it is working smoothly. However, the Commissioner's office is planning to stop using Zoom at the beginning of April, to encourage people to come back to the meetings in person. He suggested that we wait to see what they do before we make any decisions in this area.

X. Discuss Policies and Procedures Manual/Handbook

Mr. Howard met with the County Administrator, who related that they have hired a firm to revamp the Sumter County Policies and Procedures Handbook. Discussion followed.

Dr. Latimore stated that we will review the final handbook, and at that point take into consideration what items will work for us. The committee will continue to discuss items that pertain to the Election Office area.

XI. Budget

Mr. Howard presented the Budget sheet, which covered information for comparison for the past several years. Discussion followed regarding the descriptions and designations.

XII. Executive Session

None needed

Attorney Reid gave an update on the statuses of the proposed legislation for compensation for this board; the consent order with the Attorney General's Office; and the recently received challenge of the qualifications of a candidate and the laws that pertain to a challenge.

Carson Walker made a motion to approve the Consent Order with the Attorney General's Office to resolve the State Election Board's complaint.

Rhonda Reddick seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

XIII. Board Members Comments

No comments

XIV. Adjourn

Rhonda Reddick made a motion to adjourn.

Marty McDonald seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lois Phillips

March 5, 2022