

**Sumter County Board of Elections and Voter Registration
Regular Meeting
August 15, 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, Carson Walker, Dr. Valerie Roberts, Rhonda Reddick and Dennis Taylor.

b) Attorney: Hayden Hooks

c) Staff: Randy Howard, Lois Phillips

III. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Dr. Latimore stated that the minutes to be approved should be July 13, 2022 and July 26, 2022 in Part 4 of the Agenda.

Rhonda Reddick made a motion to adopt the agenda with the corrections to the dates of the minutes.

Dennis Taylor seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

IV. Motion to Approve the Minutes of July 13, 2022 and July 26, 2022

Rhonda Reddick made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular meeting on July 13, 2022 and the minutes from the Called meeting on July 26, 2022.

Carson Walker seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

V. Public Hearing

Moving/Relocating the Griffin Bell Golf Center (GSWU), Precinct C2-27, located at 1800 South Lee Street, Americus, GA to the J.R.O.T.C Building, 805 Harrold Avenue, Americus, GA (Old Americus High School Campus across from the gym), due to the old precinct location being remodeled by GSWU.

The public hearing convened at 4:35 pm and concluded at 4:37 pm, with no comments. Dr. Latimore explained the reason to have the public hearing for moving the precinct.

Dr. Valerie Roberts made a motion to have the C2-27 precinct moved from the GSWU to the JROTC building at 805 Harrold Ave.
Rhonda Reddick seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

VI. Personnel Policy

Dr. Latimore attended the meeting where they were discussing the Personnel Policy. They are still in the process of looking at this, as they only discussed 13 out of the 27 policies presented.

VII. Voter Registration Drive

Mr. Howard has lined up some election workers to help with voter registration drives. He will approach a couple of public places to hold these, most likely on a Saturday between 10 am and 4 pm. There will be advertising in the local paper, on the website, and on the radio, as well as signs out at the location, to let the public know of these events and to encourage them to register to vote.

VIII. Budget

Mr. Howard stated that we are under budget for July. Usually it's 8.3% per month, and July is at 7%. We are still dealing with the costs from election night equipment.

Mr. Howard gave an update on a technician that he and Dr. Latimore have met with, who is available to do our L&A and help us with other aspects of the election. If he is hired, we will have a written contract with him.

IX. Early Voting and Election Schedule, and Qualifying of School Board

Mr. Howard gave the schedule for qualifying as starting Monday, Aug 22 from 8 am to 5 pm, and finishing on Friday, Aug 26 at noon. Advertising in the paper and on the radio will start tomorrow. The resulting paperwork will be in to the Secretary of State's office by Friday at 3 pm. After that, the ballots will be prepared for us to proof, and then they will be sent to the printer so we will have ballots available to send out for Absentee Ballot by mail requests.

He also referred to the SOS Calendar handout, which shows the early voting schedule. Poll Managers and Assistant Poll Managers have had a walk-through of the new locations, and observed all the upgrades that have been completed to date. Also, he plans to have an old voting machine on display at the Fairgrounds, so people can see a bit of election history as they exit the building.

X. Georgia Secretary of State's Hearing Against Sumter County

Mr. Howard told about how he accidentally discovered complaints against him and the Sumter County Election Office regarding the May 24, 2022 as he was reading through emails. Attorney Hooks commented on some unusual aspects of this report, including regular notification and process procedures that seemingly were not followed, the vague aspect of the complaint, the mix up of definitions, etc. that has resulted in many questions. Mr. Howard will gather various documents which will confirm the timeline of the events of that election night. And Attorney Hooks will pursue clarity from the SOS office, and work towards clearing our reputations and resolving these alleged violations. Some discussion followed.

XI. Executive Session

None needed.

XII. Board Member Remarks

No remarks.

XIII. Adjourn

Rhonda Reddick made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dennis Taylor seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lois Phillips

August 17, 2022