

Sumter County Board of Elections and Voter Registration
Regular Meeting
April 4, 2023 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, Rhonda Reddick, Carson Walker, Dr. Valerie Roberts, and Dennis Taylor.
- b) **Staff:** Randy Howard, Julia Sims, and Lois Phillips

III. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Rhonda Reddick made a motion to adopt the agenda.
Carson Walker seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

IV. Approval of March 7, 2023 Minutes

Dennis Taylor made a motion to accept the minutes of March 7, 2023 as printed.
Dr. Roberts seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

V. Chairperson Highlights

Dr. Latimore gave the following highlights as information for the board members.

a. Legislature Update 3/24/2023

Dr. Latimore highlighted HB 17 on the Chain of Custody, that it won't be attached to any existing legislation at the last minute. HB 559 on voters with children 5 years of younger did not clear the crossover date. HB 572, an ethics bill which includes language outlining penalties to election officials who fail to timely submit ethics forms has passed the senate and is waiting for the governor's signature. Also, the full funding for replacement of the UPS batteries was not included in the senate's version of the budget, but \$2 million was included but they are not sure how far that money will go. Some discussion followed.

b. Reminder: Procedures for Attorney Services

Dr. Latimore reminded everyone of the procedures for limiting the services of county attorney at board meetings, and to be careful of any contact so we do not incur charges for the attorney's service. There will be other instances for the Board of Elections to contact the attorney if needed.

c. Reminder to write account number or label invoices (e.g. Office supplies)

Dr. Latimore reminded everyone to use red letters to write the account number on, or to label, any invoice so the finance department knows where to place them in the budget. Some discussion followed.

VI. GARViS Progress

Dr. Latimore gave a brief update on the current status of the GARViS program, its use, and the items that have been recently enhanced in the program.

Mr. Howard asked Julia and Lois to comment as well. Lois commented that it is a good program to work with, but the Reporting side of it does not seem to be running smoothly yet. Julia likes the program a lot, as she works with the deceased voters and inputting of new voter registration forms. Mr. Howard reported that other counties are also having some issues and are letting the SOS departments know so corrections can be made.

VII. Review Easy Vote

Dr. Latimore expressed the idea that if Easy Vote is just being used as a back-up system, is it really needed? Mr. Howard responded that it has been used for checks and balances to compile and validate correct numbers. However, there are other parts to the Easy Vote program that are very useful for us right now, including registering voters, the absentee ballot by mail process, ethics and all the related candidate paperwork, managing poll workers, and election equipment inventory. Some discussion followed.

VIII. Update on iPad for Board Members

Mr. Howard would like to have Nigel Poole (Americus) and Matthew Daniel (IT) come in to speak at the next Board meeting and explain the functions and benefits of the iPads, and how they would be used. Some discussion followed.

IX. Voting Equipment (Printers, Batteries, Warranties, etc.)

Mr. Howard reported that it will be best to have a printer with the new refurbished poll pads, so that the printed oath page from each voter will be able to be counted and verified after the fact, especially if the poll pads continue to drop voter numbers (as we and other counties have experienced in past elections), which may cost about \$17,000 to acquire, and then there will be the cost for the paper and cords, etc.

Mr. Howard also commented that we are waiting on the cost for the warranties on Dominion equipment. Also, the cost for replacing the batteries for the Dominion equipment may be about \$735 per battery. He also spoke about the sheets that are used for cleaning the ballot scanners, that cost about \$22 per sheet, which can only be used about 3 times each.

X. Precincts Review

Mr. Howard brought the Board up to date on the state of the current precinct locations. Any changes or paperwork needed will be completed before the next election. Some discussion followed.

XI. Identify and Specify Category for Seasonal Workers

Mr. Howard explained how all the workers have been put into one category, but he will be recommending various individual categories based on the different rolls of the workers. Also, the recent increase in hourly pay has caused some budget issues. Some discussion followed.

XII. Future Work Day

After discussion of various dates, it was suggested that the members come in at 2 pm before the next Board Meeting on May 2, 2023, to have a “work session”. Dr. Latimore suggested that we invite a person from finance to look at the budget, also a person from IT to instruct on the use of a dropbox, and that the precincts be discussed as well.

XIII. Municipal Election Payment

Mr. Howard stated that he will be meeting with the Americus city clerk and discussing the upcoming November election. Also, if there is no opposition for a candidate in an election, then there doesn't need to be an election.

XIV. Monthly Budget and Budget Preparation 2024

Dr. Latimore spoke about various line items on the budget sheet. It was suggested to have an office worker help with keeping track of expenditures on an occasional basis. Some discussion followed.

XV. Executive Session

Carson Walker made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters.

Dr. Roberts seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

The Executive Session began at 6:37 pm.

The Executive Session ended at 7:06 pm.

Carson Walker made a motion to accept the minutes of the Executive Session.

Dr. Roberts seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

XVI. Board Member Remarks

No remarks made.

XVII. Adjourn

Rhonda Reddick made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dr. Roberts seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lois Phillips

April 11, 2023