

Sumter County Board of Elections Meeting

March 2, 2021 at 4:30 pm

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Gaston at 4:35 pm.

II. Roll Call

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

b) County Attorney: Kimberly Reid

c) Staff: Randy Howard, Lois Phillips

d) Board of Commissioners: Janice Jarvis

III. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Carson Walker made a motion to accept the agenda.

It was jointly seconded by Marty McDonald and Rhonda Reddick.

Motion carried.

IV. Approval of the February 2, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Howard commented that Janice Jarvis is with the Board of Commissioners, and not with the Board of Education. The minutes will be corrected.

Carson Walker made a motion to approve the minutes.

Rhonda Reddick seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

V. Local Board of Election Legislation Update and Discussion

a) Ms. Kimberly Reid

Plans are to have the resolution ready by the end of next week. When it's ready, Ms. Reid will send it by email to each board member for their approval, as well as to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. Please respond to that email within a couple of days of receiving it.

VI. Secretary of State Training / Meeting Conference

Mr. Howard advised the Board of the GAVREO 2021 certification training program conference to be held on August 29th to September 1st of this year, at Jekyll Island. They will also have training for Board Members.

Our county is limited to sending two people only to the conference. Mr. Howard needs to attend, and one Board Member should attend.

After discussion, it was suggested that Dr. Shirley Latimore, as vice-chairman of the Board, should attend. She will check to see if those dates are available on her schedule, and let Mr. Howard know as soon as possible.

If we are able to send more people to the conference, then Carson Walker and Rhonda Reddick could attend.

VII. ESPLOST Election Update

Mr. Howard recounted the Board of Education's planning that led up to the election. Also, so far, there has been 204 people that have come in to early vote since February 23rd.

VIII. Census Discussion Relating to Upcoming Elections in 2021

Mr. Howard spoke about the redistricting that could happen in 2022 as a result of the current census. The census redistricting could affect the districts of city positions that are up for election later this year. We are still working on how this will affect Sumter County.

Mr. Howard asked Janice Jarvis to speak briefly. Janice reported that the budget worksheets have gone out to the departments and are due back by March 31. She also offered her support if there are reports needed or questions to be answered. Mr. Howard thanked Janice for taking time to meet with the Board of Elections tonight. Mr. Howard also reviewed the bills received from the Secretary of State's office.

IX. Executive Session

None needed

X. Board Members Comments

Marty McDonald commented on the good job that the poll workers are doing at early voting.

Dr. Latimore commented that things are going well at early voting, but it's very slow.

Mr. Howard commented on the School Board's cost of this election.

Rhonda Reddick thanked Mr. Howard for doing a good job during challenging times. And she thanked Janice Jarvis for keeping us informed on financial items.

Carson Walker went to the early voting precinct, and observed that a person could complete their voting experience in 8 minutes! He appreciates the staff and all that's involved.

There were various comments and discussion regarding city elections, the drop box, seniors applying for absentee ballots, and equipment warranties.

Attorney Kim Reid spoke about the public comment policy. She asked that the Board members read the draft copy, so there can be further discussion of comments, questions and scenarios at the next board meeting.

Mr. Howard reported on the status of the office move within the building.

XI. Adjourn

The next Board of Elections meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

Marty McDonald made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Carson Walked seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Phillips

March 9, 2021