

Sumter County Board of Elections Called Meeting April 6, 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

Marty McDonald was in attendance via phone call

b) County Attorney: Kimberly Reid

c) Staff: Randy Howard, Lois Phillips

d) HR Office: Susan Merritt

Commissioner's Office: Janice Jarvis

III. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Dr. Shirley Latimore made a motion to adopt the agenda.

Carson Walker seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

IV. Motion to Approve the Minutes from March 17, 2021

Rhonda Reddick made a motion to adopt the minutes from March 17, 2021.

Carson Walker seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

At this point, an **Executive Session** was called to discuss litigation.

Carson Walker made a motion to go into Executive Session.

Rhonda Reddick seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

After the **Executive Session**,

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

Rhonda Reddick seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

V. E-SPLOST Update

Randy Howard explained that this will be finalized most likely by next week.

VI. Discussion of the New Voting Laws

Mr. Howard informed the Board that the Secretary of State's office will soon be breaking down the new voting laws to make it clear for us. As we get more clarity from them in the next few weeks, we will be implementing any necessary changes.

VII. Update on the Election Office Move

Mr. Howard stated that we are completely moved to the new office, where we have a lot more room. We are continuing to sort and organize the current and outdated items. However, everyone is happier with the new office.

VIII. Email Problems with County System

Mr. Howard noted that we continue to have problems with the email and phone system. We need to have a back-up system or a designated line only for elections so we are not caught without access in the future, especially during an election. He will be looking into another company to use as a back-up system.

IX. Website for Election Office

Mr. Howard outlined that our website is not usable as it is now. He needs to have complete access to it, to be able to update it often. Mr. Howard will see if there is someone who can help or train us as to how this could be done.

X. Budget Discussion

Mr. Howard commented that Janice Jarvis has been working very hard and has kept up with all of the many election happenings from this past year. She has been very accommodating in helping us make sure everything is documented properly.

Janice proceeded to explain the Budget Handout Sheet, and stated that she is available to answer any other questions we may have.

Kim Reid commented on how her billing is detailed and itemized, both for department tracking and court accountability.

Mr. Howard also spoke about upcoming expenses relating to the election equipment and their warranties.

He also stated his appreciation that Janice's door is always open and available for us.

XI. Executive Session

As there was an Executive Session earlier in this meeting, one is not needed at this time.

XIII. Board Member Comments

Kim Reid spoke about the progress of the local legislation with the Office of the General Counsel. Some discussion followed. The Board Members agreed to have the legislation ready and present it again next year.

Kim Reid requested that the Board Members review the public comment policy, and have the draft ready to be finalized at the next meeting.

Mr. Howard stated that the University of Georgia has submitted an open records request for items across the whole state of Georgia. The University of Georgia is studying the November 2020 election.

XIV. Adjourn

Carson Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Rhonda Reddick seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Phillips
April 10, 2021